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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-191
Thursday
1 October 1992

Daily Report

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FBIS-SOV-92-191

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Ukrainian Observers Tip Vice Premier to Succeed Fokin

With the resignation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin on 30 September, observers in Kiev are speculating on a possible replacement, INTERFAX reports. "The most probable winner in the elections of the head of the government is Valentyn Symonenko who was nominated as first vice-premier and economics minister of the republic three months ago." Nevertheless, "it is not ruled out that the RUKH [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] opposition movement will try to offer its candidates for the post..., among them chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic reform Vladimir Pilipchuk, former leader of the major opposition faction "Narodna Rada" academician Igor Yukhnovsky and former Soviet people's deputy Vladimir Chernyak."

When contacted for comment by ITAR-TASS, Symonenko "refused to either confirm or deny the possibility." Addressing the direction of government policy, he said that the Ukrainian Government "should attribute strategic role to market reforms, while the state sector should play a stabilizing role."

No Timetable From Russian Defense Ministry on Kuril Troop Withdrawal

The Russian Defense Ministry announced on 30 September that "it will carry out a complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the four disputed islands off northern Japan despite the calling off of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan." Responding to an inquiry from the Japanese press agency KYODO, the ministry's press office affirmed that "the pullout of all troops from the islands announced by Yeltsin will go ahead, saying it will follow 'politicians' decisions'" but "did not give specific timing of the withdrawal of an estimated 7,000 troops."

Issuing of Privatization Vouchers Begins; Gaydar Warns Against Haste

ITAR-TASS reports that today "many thousands" of Russians will become the first owners of privatization vouchers. According to a report it cited from the republic's State Committee for Management of State Property, "approximately 40 million vouchers have been printed and sent to their destinations." The news agency adds that approximately 50,000 departments, branches, and agencies of the savings bank, as well as additional posts, have been set up "in the most densely populated residential areas and remote settlements."

Meanwhile, acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar has cautioned Russians "not to be in a hurry" "to accept the first offer and sell your privatization vouchers for money," reminding them of the effects of inflation. He added that "in the very near future the government intends to prepare and pass a number of supplementary normative acts that will strengthen the exchange rate of the privatization voucher: Municipal property, housing, and land will be linked to the process of privatization."

START Ratification Would Enhance Process

PM0110100192 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Oct 92 p 3

[Article by Manki Ponomarev: "Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty Is More Than One Year Old. It Is High Time It Came Into Force"]

[Text] The Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms was concluded in Moscow as long as 14 months ago—31 July 1991. But it has not yet come into force because the parties to it just cannot complete the process of its ratification.

There are various reasons for this. The most important one is probably that the Soviet Union, in whose name this treaty was signed together with the United States, broke up during this time. It took several months to resolve the problem of legal succession. The i's were dotted in Lisbon in May of this year, when the United States, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus signed a special protocol, according to which the former Soviet republics that have strategic nuclear weapons on their territory will become full parties to the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms.

Since then, however, only Kazakhstan has officially ratified this treaty. Russia is expected to discuss it in the Supreme Soviet in the near future, perhaps even this month. Ukraine and Belarus are also in line.

But how do things stand in the United States? Various opinions have been voiced there concerning the Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty, under which the United States and the former Soviet nuclear arsenals are to be reduced by approximately one-third over the next seven years. But, on the whole, it has elicited a positive assessment, and the concluding stage of its ratification has now begun in the U.S. Senate.

The Senate hearings on this question are proceeding rather stormily. But Senator Malcolm Wallop's attempt to drag out the treaty's discussion was resolutely rejected, and a decision to limit the time for debate was adopted by 87 votes to six.

At the session a letter was read out from Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who urged senators to ratify the treaty as quickly as possible. The letter emphasizes that "the Senate's decision to codify the ending of the era of confrontation along with the new steps that we are taking to strengthen stability will enable our children and grandchildren to grow up free from fear of a nuclear Armageddon." Many senators responded to this appeal. Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, pointed out that the Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty is of tremendous significance, as it binds four former Soviet republics to an obligation; will open up the way to conclude with Russia an agreement on the further elimination of nuclear arms; will make a major contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world; and will prompt other nuclear powers to reduce their arsenals. He was supported by George Mitchell, leader of the Democratic majority, and by other senators.

To all appearances, the Senate will approve a recommendation to the President to ratify the treaty. This will be of great practical significance. First, an opportunity is being opened up to embark on the practical realization of the treaty's provisions—the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. Second, on the agenda will be the question of reaching an agreement between the United States and Russia on ways to implement the framework accord reached this summer during the Russian Federation president's visit to Washington, according to which a still larger reduction—by approximately two-thirds, compared with the present level—in the two countries' strategic offensive arms is proposed.

Foreign Ministers Meeting in Moscow 5 Oct

OW3009160792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Foreign ministers from the CIS countries will gather for a meeting in Moscow on October 5, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the press and information department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. Earlier experts from several Commonwealth states working at the coordinating centers based in the capital of Belarus spoke in favour of holding such a meeting in Minsk on October 7.

According to S. Yastrzhembskiy, at their conference in Moscow the foreign ministers will discuss and evidently finalize an agenda for the next CIS summit to be held in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, on October 9.

Participants in the conference in Moscow are not planning to discuss other issues, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Bilateral meetings between them are not envisaged either. However such meetings might take place after all. "Multilateral gatherings of this kind always open favorable opportunities for bilateral contacts", S. Yastrzhembskiy pointed out.

Black Sea Fleet Said Engaged in Illegal Commerce

OW3009180992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the Ukrainian Navy told IF [INTERFAX] that the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, signed a contract for the sale of a reserve command point to the "Lela" private airline for 60 mn [million] rubles. Ukrainian Navy specialists estimate the value of the establishment to be worth, at current prices, over 3.5 bn [billion] rubles.

The Ukrainian Navy press center also reported that naval commander recently closed a contract for the sale of various commercial structures of large quantities of fuel and real estate, including two runways in Kherones and Kacha. A large amount of fuel was given to the "Formula 7" inter-communication center in exchange for the building of housing for naval officers in Novorisk.

Compromise Seen Emerging in Forces' Division

PM2809111392 Moscow NEW TIMES in English
No. 36, Sep 92 pp 12-14

[Article by Dmitriy Trenin under the "Army" rubric: "Divide and Flourish?"]

[Text] Some six months after the CIS was set up, it was already clear that the CIS Joint Armed Force was sheer fiction. Reality is prodding the former Soviet Army, which has broken down into several national armies, to evolve new forms of military cooperation.

As far as one can judge, the Crimean War is not to be. The Yalta accords of the two Presidents of Russia and the Ukraine paved the way for resolving the crisis that had erupted in connection with the Black Sea Navy.

From the angle of the national interests of the two countries, the conflict over the Navy and the Crimea was most disadvantageous and potentially very hazardous from the very outset. The illusion of negotiations that sought rather to record stands than really evolve a mutually acceptable solution slowly but surely led to Moscow and Kiev relinquishing control of the situation in the Navy and simultaneously—for as will be known politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum—created a fertile medium for sabre-rattling by sundry national extremists. Though the Yalta accords did not delete the conflict from the agenda they at least halted its escalation.

What Was Partly Another's Was Sacrificed

So what options do the Yalta accords furnish? First, they signify time again. Indeed, apart from everything else the crisis was perilous insofar as it offered policy-makers hardly any time to work out well-conceived decisions. Over the transition period, that is up to 1995, the Black Sea Navy may be divided up, not be torn into pieces. In effect the question has long been one of the share the Ukraine will get.

Last spring Marshal Shaposhnikov tentatively agreed to let Kiev have about a fifth of the Navy. Today, according to the media, there are five options and it may be presumed that in the upshot Russia's new Black Sea Navy and the Ukraine's naval forces will be equal. That would certainly be a good thing, as it would rid future bilateral relations of military and historical claims.

Yet not only the Ukraine stands to gain. Russia will have the leasing of naval bases and installations along the Crimean littoral favorably received, for after all it is plain that that is possible only in the context of stable amicable bilateral relations.

Finally, the Yalta accords will serve to avert the Black Sea Navy's disintegration and degradation inasmuch as its preservation as an entity had always been basic for the naval command. To tell the truth, the Navy as an arm of the forces is far more systemic than ground troops, which is why it is so vital to retain it over the transition period as one unit for the Black Sea Navy's deployment and material facilities.

Another good thing was that the accords did not dodge the issues of command, personnel, and oath.

Of course, the accords have their negative aspects. First, both Yeltsin and Kravchuk deliberately ignored the

stake other CIS members have as regards the Black Sea Navy, which was at once underscored by Shushkevich of Belarus. Nor was much regard shown for the CIS Joint Armed Forces, as an entire navy was deleted from it by one stroke of the pen. Such strong-man approaches which continue the Belovezh and, in effect, still earlier traditions, gravely impair Russia's prestige as a reliable international partner.

When disputing with Kiev, Moscow stressed time and again that the Black Sea Navy was part of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, a stand that was unproductive from the very start. To break the deadlock Russia had to sacrifice what she herself says did not belong to her alone. Yet that was done.

Whereas early in the year the emphasis was on the preservation of the unity of the former USSR's Armed Forces and there were hopes that with the exception of the Ukraine and two or three other republics, all CIS states would adhere to that stand, when spring came, formation of national armies became irreversible. The Rubicon was crossed on March 16, when President Yeltsin signed an edict setting up the Russian Federation Armed Forces. Ever since the dimension characterized as the CIS Joint Armed Forces has continued to contract.

From Fictitious to Formal Unification

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenia have announced that they will form their own armed forces on the basis of the Soviet Army units (under CIS joint command for several months) that are deployed in their respective territories. Otherwise the "joint" forces stationed within the conflict theatres as in Moldova, Transcaucasia, and Tajikistan and also outside the CIS as in the Baltic states, Germany and Poland were placed under Russia's jurisdiction and control.

On 26 May the High Command of the Joint Armed Forces moved from Arbat Square to Leningradskiy Prospekt, where the staff of the Warsaw Joint Armed Forces had been quartered earlier. Ever since, despite the series of military agreements signed and the drafting of more documents, the significance of the Joint Armed Forces continues to contract, while the uncertainty around its further lot continues to grow. In this sense the Black Sea Navy decision merely offers the latest pertinent confirmation.

The failures haunting the former Soviet republics in the area of integration are largely due to their seeking, as a rule, to build up their structures from top to bottom, instead of vice versa. The same holds true for the armed forces, whose "unification" was initially sheer fiction, as in practice this concerned the USSR Armed Forces that by December 19, 1991, had found themselves without a single command. By the middle of this year this "unification" was no more than formal, as the new states had organized their own armies, although they had still to make up their minds as to which forces would be integrated in their national armies and which would be subordinated to the joint command.

Nor has the 15 May Tashkent Collective Security agreement clarified the situation. By bringing Russia together with Kazakhstan and with the Central Asian states, that are increasingly distancing themselves from Moscow and that include Armenia, which to all practical intents is at war with Azerbaijan, the said agreement at once invoked questions with respect to the priorities of Russia's policy in the military field and the likelihood of Russia's embroilment in conflicts involving other countries.

Reaffirmed with the passage of time was what many had suspected from the very outset, to wit that the Collective Security agreement was as formal as the joint Armed Forces, which incidentally Armenia's President Ter-Petrosyan had the chance to see for himself.

We most willingly allude to U.S. experience, forgetful though, that America knows what it wants, while we yet have to make up our minds. We energetically borrow from NATO experience, unmindful that such military alliances were built to face a patently formidable danger and that NATO's real begetter was Stalin not Truman. We note Western Europe's military integration, but fail to realize that the joint Franco-German brigade comprises the nucleus of what may with time become a European army. So on and so forth.

To cut a long story short, we are still imitating what others have done, naively presuming that what we share in common is adequate to scale the peaks of integration, as long as there is a resolve to do so. However, that is a delusion which must be shed as soon as possible.

180 Cockpits of Tension

For the time being no former Soviet republic has formulated its own national interests. Though there are more than enough of concepts, there is no conviction that state leaders have settled for one or another. Also non-existent is a common national consensus as to international issues, without which stable foreign policy is unthinkable. For that matter there cannot be a consensus in the meantime.

There inevitably follows from all this that attempts to install a military and political alliance to replace the former USSR, will scarcely be successful thus far. Since they have but a poor understanding of their own national interests, the new states have but a hazy idea of points of contact and points of divergence.

Often mentioned as an incentive for unification are the 180 cockpits of potential conflict scattered around the former USSR. The problem though is that there are 180 such cockpits not just one. If there were but one equally imperilling all, the republics would most likely unite. But when there are more than a hundred, scarcely can that eventuate.

Yet it is highly probable that all these joint forces and military alliances are summoned to serve another, far more prosaic purpose, which is to alleviate the consequences that the USSR's disintegration has entailed for

the former Soviet Army. We may note in this connection the circumstance that the reorganization of the USSR Armed Forces into the CIS Joint Armed Forces paved the way for an immediate solution in respect of the Soviet nuclear legacy and furnished breathing space for drafting, already at a national level, the basic principles of a military policy.

Hence the Tashkent Agreement could have been signed basically to reinforce the Russia-Kazakhstan union and ensure—for the time being—the normal operation of military structures in Central Asia and also in Armenia.

Do the "Nuclear" Presidents Liaise?

Whatever the case, it must always be remembered that every agreement envisages links and commitments. As concerns the threat of the wholesale breakdown of the Army, which was quite possible when the USSR disintegrated into the CIS, that is now not on the cards, with the exception of Transcaucasia. So what are the priorities in this connection for Russia's military policy vis-à-vis the immediate abroad?

First the basic nuclear issue. Indeed, so long as Russia is not the only CIS country in possession of nuclear weaponry that will definitely remain a priority. Although Moscow's desire to retain centralized control of nuclear armament and secure for Russia a full takeover from the former USSR in this field has the backing of the world community, Russia must not forget that 1994 is still around the corner, that not all of the former USSR's nuclear weaponry is in her territory and that from the angle of formality at any rate, the Russian President is not as free as regards nuclear decisions as the previous Soviet leaders. That being so, particular tact has to be demonstrated vis-à-vis Kiev, Alma-Ata, and Minsk.

Now we do not know whether there is a hot line for Russian, Ukrainian, Kazakhstan, and Belarus leaders to confer in the event of crisis. We do not know to what extent representatives of the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus are involved in drafting and implementing nuclear strategy. Nor do we know how well concerted is the policy of nuclear weapon control.

Be that as it may, the lack of facilities for fast reliable liaison between the four presidents is simply impermissible. It would be absurd for the Ukraine not to be represented in the slated committee for nuclear strategy coordination, which is to be set up under the collective Security Agreement, though the Central Asian republics party to the Tashkent Agreement are represented on it. Finally, though the Kremlin's resolve to cut down on nuclear arsenals is to be acclaimed, it would likewise be desirable for Russia's president to rely on the patently expressed support of some of his colleagues when talking with the U.S. President, as that would also reinforce Russia's own stance.

Aircraft Must Fly

Whereas with respect to strategic forces quadrilateral coordination represents the one and only acceptable option over the transition period, any desire for the broadest possible arrangement could prove erroneous in respect of conventional forces.

With the exception of Russia, each CIS state covers a more or less compact region, be this Eastern Europe in respect of the Ukraine and Belarus, Asia Minor and the Near East in respect of the Transcaucasian republics, the Middle East in respect of the Central Asian republics. Indeed, geopolitically, geostrategically, and domestically, Belarus and Tajikistan are so different that any firm basis for military-political integration is out. Only Russia is in Europe, in the Caucasus, and in Asia. Which significantly infers that while Russia wishes to fortify security along her entire perimeter, she must take a differentiated approach in each particular direction. Recent practice has incidentally demonstrated that this is most productive.

Sweeping cooperation with Kazakhstan, a republic of whose population two-fifths are Slavic, accords with the most vital interests of both Russia and Kazakhstan. Such cooperation must likewise have a military dimension in the form of a close military-political alliance and as far as we can see, it is this option that is currently being put into practice.

Minsk has repeatedly announced its firm resolve to denuclearize and stay neutral. This is quite justified as expressing the basic national interests of Belarus. It cannot join the CIS military alliance that Russia is organizing without renouncing the basic principles of its policy of security. However, a bilateral agreement with Moscow presents quite a different picture. Such a mutually acceptable agreement was signed this summer.

Turkmenia has been unique in agreeing to have the Soviet military legacy within its territory divided in such a manner as to have part reorganized into a force that is to be subject to dual, that is Russian-Turkmenian, control.

There are very tangible means and possibilities for purely military, military-technical, military-economic, and of course, military-political cooperation between Russia and all other CIS republics. This could refer to the maintenance of an anti-aircraft defense system, arms production, specialist training, armaments engineering repair, joint combat training, and, finally, military and technical facilities.

Incidentally, the relatively little experience amassed thus far in peace making and peace keeping in South Ossetia and Moldova demonstrates that armed contingents, in which individual states including Russia are represented, may be preferable to a special CIS force, at least nowadays as everyone will see who is actually responsible for the Russian, Georgian, or Moldovan battalions. What, though, would this amount to in the case of a CIS force?

Finally, a few words as to local conflicts along the CIS's external perimeter. Russia might find herself faced with a situation when her interests would necessitate decisive action including the use of force. But for such response to be swift, upon which is effectiveness will largely depend, Russia may have to ask for permission to overfly what is already foreign territory and to use airfields there. She will also doubtlessly stand in need of depots with heavy ordnance, materiel, fuel, and lubricants, and it would also be much better to concretely specify such matters in advance.

To sum up, we have quadrilateral cooperation in the nuclear sphere and primarily bilateral cooperation as regards conventional armed forces and weaponry. We have an orientation on what it is essential to have, not what would be desirable. What we have is the gradual gathering together of nuclear weaponry and the division of conventional arms. What we have is the renunciation of a maximalistic attitude which so often implies the loss of what one wants. On the other hand, we have a readiness to engage in tough bargaining and reach inevitable compromise, which means that much could be kept. Does this mean divide and flourish? The Yalta accords on the Black Sea Navy demonstrate in part that this is quite feasible.

Commonwealth Communists Hold Secret Meeting

LD3009221392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Viktor Kuklov—TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 28 TASS—The first meeting of the Political Consultative Council of the Commonwealth Communists was held in conditions of strict secrecy last Sunday in the Belarusian capital. The place chosen for the meeting is historically fully justified—nearly one hundred years ago the first congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP) took place in Minsk also illegally. There is still an exposition in the memorial house-museum devoted to that event.

According to BELINFORM, the Political Consultative Council of Communist and Workers' Parties of the former Soviet Union created in summer of 1992, gathered in the Commonwealth capital to better understand their positions and look for common grounds and interaction. Despite existing differences, the majority of Communist parties stand up for the restoration of a single state within the boundaries of the former Soviet Union. However, representatives of Communist movement in the Commonwealth countries decided not to set up a single leading center similar to the Communist International. The Political Consultative Council will only give recommendations and advice, as well as work out general strategy and tactics.

Turkic Education Conference in Bishkek Continues

OW0110013592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev has held a meeting with education ministers of the Turkic states, who are involved in a regional conference in the capital Bishkek, the second of its kind so far.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The forum due to end on Saturday [3 October] involves delegates from Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan as well as Turkic republics of the Russian Federation including Tataria and Bashkiria.

The Kyrgyz education minister, Mrs Chynara Jakypova, speaking at the conference, called for more effort in producing joint educational programmes based on Turkic values and freed from the remnants of Soviet ideology.

She attaches great importance to the work on a unified educational system and the acceptance of college degrees within the Turkic space.

An IF correspondent says there has been a widespread response to the idea expressed by the Turkish education minister, Koksal Toptan, about the creation of Turkic language societies in the former Soviet republics and a uniform alphabet for all Turkic languages.

IF Note: Turkey is ready to bear part of the cost for the creation of language centres, and publication of textbooks and dictionaries and to accept up to 12,000 students annually from the Turkic regions of the former Soviet Union for further education at Turkish colleges. The Turkish education ministry has opened its own mission and a women's technical college in Bishkek today.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Oct

LD0110082592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 1 Oct 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 1 ITAR-TASS—Today's trade union newspaper TRUD published an interview with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko, who emphasised that he does not see an "alternative to the course of reforms." Simultaneously, he called for restructuring the economy.

On "Russia's entry into the community of democratic countries," Shumeyko noted that "we are equal partners with those whom we call as industrialised Western

states." Financial considerations and potentialities are on the second place, he said.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA features a conversation with Vasily Starodubtsov, chairman of the Russian Peasants' Union and former member of the ill-famed State Emergency Committee. Touching on the events of August 19-22, 1991, he said "there was no any conspiracy at all." In Starodubtsov's view, "the country's legitimate authority announced a state of emergency to rescue the USSR, to rescue the people from genocide, outrages and humiliation. All resolutions by the state emergency committee are not at odds either with the Constitution or our laws. The committee did not usurp the power of the republics or autonomous regions, all bodies in provinces functioned, no one was subjected to any persecution. At point was to establish order in the country..."

The Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA runs excerpts from the book by Lieutenant-General Vadim Kirpichenko, a former chief of the Soviet Foreign Intelligence Service, who shares his views about cases of Soviet foreign intelligence agents defection to the enemy camp. Kirpichenko writes that the motives of former Soviet intelligence agents' defection "were prosaic and mean: fleeing from a sick or unloved wife, heavy drinking and the degradation of personality on this ground, the fear of responsibility for blunders in the service and cowardice displayed during an encounter with foreign secret services."

Kirpichenko draws attention to the fact that "the majority of traitors try to portray themselves in public eyes as political fighters against the system that proclaimed itself as socialist, as opponents of totalitarianism."

"However, the system itself has changed, society seeks to transfer to a market economy and democracy, however, the number of traitors has not diminished," he went on.

Major-General Vladimir Dzyuba, deputy head of the Russian Defence Ministry's administrative department, shares his thoughts in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about what the new military oath to the Russian Army should be. He points out that the new text of the loyalty oath reflects the idea of the continuity of the best combat and heroic traditions of the Russian Army, the high meaning of the service to the homeland and also the principle of using the armed forces to defend the freedom and independence of the homeland. "The oath turns to eternal values: the multi-ethnic people, the freedom and independence of Russia, which have the unpassing importance," Dzyuba observes.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes the text of an appeal by the organizing committee of the National Salvation Front to the Russian citizens. The appeal describes the situation in the country as critical. Its authors think that Russia is going through a national tragedy. The appeal urges fellow citizens to "abandon ideological disputes" and "by uniting within the framework of the National Salvation Front to assume the responsibility for the country's future."

TRUD and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA comment on the refusal by Mikhail Gorbachev, ex-president of the USSR and general secretary of the Soviet Communist party Central Committee, to appear at Russian Constitutional Court hearings to give testimony. TRUD describes Gorbachev's decision as a contempt of the court. In SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's view, the decision by the former party and state leader is motivated by "the fear of personal responsibility."

Ministry Says Kurils Troop Withdrawal To Proceed*OW3009151792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1504 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 30 KYODO—The Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday [30 September] it will carry out a complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the four disputed islands off northern Japan despite the calling off of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

The ministry's press division said in a written reply to KYODO NEWS SERVICE the pullout of all troops from the islands announced by Yeltsin will go ahead, saying it will follow "politicians' decisions."

But the ministry did not give specific timing of the withdrawal of an estimated 7,000 troops.

In May, Yeltsin told Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in their talks in Moscow that Russia will completely withdraw its troops stationed on the islands within one or two years.

The islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—were seized by the former Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II.

The territorial dispute has prevented both sides from concluding a peace treaty and Japan has been reluctant to provide full economic aid to Russia until it is solved.

Demilitarization of the islands is listed as the third stage of a five-stage plan of Yeltsin's to resolve the dispute.

Yeltsin was scheduled to visit Japan in mid-September but abruptly postponed the trip just before he was due to go.

He has not referred to the troops pullout since then.

Observers said the withdrawal may be postponed because of opposition from the Russian military.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has said Russia would not remove the troops.

The military, which opposes returning the islands to Japan, may cite their strategic importance to delay the pullout, the observers said.

Military Leaving Vilnius; Yeltsin Meeting in Doubt*PM3009161392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "First Trainloads of Combat Equipment Leave Vilnius"]

[Text] Vilnius—Three weeks after the signing in Moscow of a number of interstate treaties, including the schedule for the withdrawal of Russian forces from Lithuania, the first trainloads of combat equipment and armaments

belonging to the 107th motorized rifle division have started leaving Vilnius. The Lithuanian delegation was very insistent on its first-stage withdrawal.

Last week two trainloads of military hardware and equipment were withdrawn and on Tuesday another 61 items of combat equipment left by railroad, so Russia currently is meeting its commitment to withdraw military subunits from the Lithuanian capital before the end of November. I would point out that this is the division that helped Moscow and local putschists by sending in tanks and taking the television and radio company committee building and television tower in the early hours of 13 January 1991. Therefore Lithuania attaches enormous significance to the relocation of the units of the so-called "northern camp," now under way. Incidentally, V. Landsbergis has issued an order to prepare a plan to clear the square outside parliament of the barricades that still enclose the building, but to leave some of the chunks of rock and ferroconcrete as items of "historical value." All this will be done once the 107th division has left Vilnius.

The more consistent and systematic process of withdrawal of forces from Lithuania which, as is well known, is to end on 31 August next year, is hampered by the fact that the political treaty on the withdrawal of forces remains unsigned. It is still unclear whether Russia, as Lithuania demands, will help it rebuild the republic's defense capability, which was destroyed in 1940, and whether it will hand over military property and some of the armaments as compensation for the damage that has been caused (Lithuania formerly insisted on compensation of 150 billion rubles [R] for the material damage). It looks like the meeting between V. Landsbergis and B. Yeltsin will not be taking place at the beginning of October.

While the top people are unable to finally agree among themselves, a common language is being found at a lower level. According to information from Kaliningrad, the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense and the Baltic Fleet, with the permission of the Russian Defense Ministry, were able to sign a treaty whereby the fleet will transfer four ships to Lithuania—two torpedo boats and two small antisubmarine warfare ships and armaments for them—and construction workers from Kaunas are pledging to build a residential development in Kaliningrad to provide more than 2,500 apartments. On the other hand, the lack of political agreement is leading to unpleasant misunderstandings and incidents.

Gaydar Concludes Armenia, Azerbaijan Visit*LD0110002492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2335 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct—Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russia Government, has returned to Moscow following visits to Baku and Yerevan. In the course of the Russian delegation's official visit to Azerbaijan and

Armenia, more than 10 documents of an economic nature were signed, which applied to bilateral relations with these republics.

As an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned, in Yerevan, the package of documents—which had preliminarily been scheduled for signing on the settlement of issues regarding the state foreign debt and the assets of the former USSR—was not signed. The officials in the Russian delegation explained this by the fact that the Armenian parliament had not given “the go ahead” for this. At the same time, a bilateral agreement concerning frontier issues, which had not been planned in the program beforehand, was signed. An ITAR-TASS correspondent succeeded in learning that the period that Russian frontier troops are to be located on Armenia’s external borders is determined by this document. They will stay there until an accord is reached on their withdrawal.

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives for Meetings

LD3009164192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340
GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes arrived in Moscow for a working visit on Wednesday [30 September]. He will have meeting and negotiations with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Deputy Chairman of the Government for Social Policy Aleksandr Shokhin.

ITAR-TASS learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry that the Belgian minister intends to familiarise himself with the situation in the country and the state of agriculture and economy as a whole. They will discuss bilateral Russo-Belgian relations and the planned visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Brussels. There are plans to discuss the contents of a political treaty between the two countries, as well as cooperation in space exploration and nuclear power and legal aid for civil and criminal cases.

Willy Claes will also discuss with the Russian leaders opening the Belgian Consulate-General in St. Petersburg, the problem of the Tsar’s debts, and the granting of exhibits of the diamond fund for a display in Antwerp.

Views NATO, Human Rights With Rutskoy

OW3009224192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Accord and Partnership Agreement between Russia and Belgium currently being drafted should place relations between the two countries on a fundamentally new level. Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy

and Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes expressed this view at their meeting in the Kremlin Wednesday [30 September].

The agreement will be signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin’s visit to Brussels at the end of the year.

Rutskoy expressed his gratitude to the Belgian government for supporting Russian policy regarding active cooperation with NATO and closer integration in the European Community. According to Rutskoy, Russia is not working to widen its contacts in Europe with the aim of receiving aid. “We intend to work on the oasis of our own strengths and possibilities”, said Rutskoy.

While discussing the question of human rights, the vice president asked Belgium to “actively respond” to violations of these rights in the Baltic States.

The Belgian Minister said in turn that “foreign troops”, meaning Russian units, are located in these countries.

In connection with this, Rutskoy said that Russia itself would like to remove the troops as soon as possible, but that “as long as military barracks have not been built and there is no housing for the soldiers’ families we cannot do this”. The vice president emphasized that the Russian troops are under orders not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Baltic States and that the order has not been violated.

Rutskoy also said the Russian units will be withdrawn from the Baltic States when necessary conditions for withdrawal will be established. He pointed out to Mr. Claes that Russia does not demand means from the Baltic States for maintaining the Russian troops located there. “We would only like to mutually resolve the problem of creating the necessary conditions for bringing returning Russian military personnel,” said Rutskoy.

The Belgian Foreign Minister assured the Vice President that Belgium, will speak actively at all levels against the compromising of human rights in any country.

Meets Shokhin

OW0110021292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting Wednesday [30 September] in Moscow Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister Willy Claes discussed preparations for President Yeltsin’s visit to Brussels planned for the end of this year. The Belgian guest stated this during a discussion with an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent on the outcome of the meeting. Claes said that during the talks in Moscow they observed the need to secure mutual protection on investments and to reach an agreement which would allow them to avoid dual taxation. The minister said it would be possible to re-effect an agreement on investments protection signed earlier

with the Soviet Union. Regarding taxation, Claes said Belgium is prepared to quickly begin negotiations on this issue.

Nechayev, German Minister Set Up Working Groups

LD3009172392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Russian Minister of the Economy Andrey Nechayev and German Deputy Chancellor and Economics Minister Jurgen Moellemann reached an agreement on Wednesday [30 September] to set up five working groups—on fuel and energy, conversion, the use of solid minerals, the development of the infrastructure, including the railway transport, and agriculture. The German governmental delegation made the visit in the framework of the existing agreements on the further development of the economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation between Russia and Germany.

The groups will submit their specific proposals in these areas to be analysed by the German side.

Eduard Shmelev, chief of the Mineral Resources Department of the Russian Ministry of the Economy, said that plans of much importance for restructuring of the economy are meant. They are plans for the investment into ferrous metallurgy, the coal, petroleum and other industries.

German Minister Seeks Expansion of Ties

LD3009160192 Berlin ADN in German 1311 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Moscow (ADN)—The German economy will continue to have a strong presence in Russia and is interested in expanding relations. Federal Minister of the Economy Juergen Moellemann reaffirmed this to the press in Moscow today. During talks with government head Yegor Gaydar and Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev, Moellemann, who is in Moscow for a session of the German-Russian Cooperation Council, said that he discussed, inter alia, the package of measures to secure trade with the East which was passed by the Federal Cabinet on 23 September.

He made it clear that the Federal Government intends to back business even after the framework of 5 billion German marks for Hermes credits have been exhausted. But individual decisions have to be made on each application, taking into consideration the situation of the respective firms and the employment situation. Moellemann said that in future barter deals are also to be backed by Hermes credits.

Nechayev briefed him about a decision made by his government according to which, in business deals within the Hermes fund, Russian firms only have to deposit 15

percent of the deal to be closed in rubles at the Russian foreign trade bank. This will alleviate the situation for many firms. The Russian side also stated its readiness for unconventional means of financing deals without hard currency, in particular if eastern German enterprises gear their production range exclusively to Russian buyers.

Nechayev described the talks as a hopeful basis for expanding economic relations between the two countries. "We have to seek new paths in trade with Germany and must no longer rely on our exports of raw materials," Nechayev told ADN. He said that the debt problem was not discussed in the talks with Moellemann. The two sides agreed that developing economic relations is also a basis for the successful implementation of reforms in Russia. [passage omitted]

Germany Offered Oil, Property for Investment

OW0110011292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 30 Sep 92

["Cover Story" from "Business Report"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] RUSSIA OFFERS GERMANY OIL AND REAL ESTATE IN RETURN FOR INVESTMENT

Germany will stop orienting its firms in the eastern regions of the nation on the Russian and East European market due partly to Russia's delay in using a 5 bn DM [billion deutsche marks] loan (\$3.57 bn) granted by the German financial group Germe to be invested in joint projects between Russian and, primarily, firms in former East Germany. Russia has used just 3.2 bn of the loan and asked Germany to extend the usage period for another year.

In addition Germany is displeased with a drop in the trade turnover with Russia. In 1991 Russian exports represented 8.3 bn DM (\$5.9 bn), and imports 20.3 bn DM (\$14.5 bn), whereas on August 1st of this year these figures were 4.6 and 4.5 bn DM, respectively (\$3.28 and \$3.21 bn).

The Russian Minister of Economics Andrey Nechayev, speaking to the Russian-German Council on Economic Cooperation in Moscow, said that the Russian government is "seriously concerned" over Germany's decision. Nechayev assured the German partners that Russia "does not want to be a non-paying debtor". In addition, the economics minister said that the possibilities of developing trade and economic relations between the two nations based on credits "are practically exhausted". German Vice Chancellor Jurgen Moellemann also attended the meeting in Moscow.

OIL AND GAS OFFERED ON FAVORABLE TERMS FOR GERMAN INVESTORS

The Russian government is against using only Russian natural resources in buy-back transactions, including barter deals. Nechayev suggested using oil and gas to pay

for German investments, which would help increase production of these energy resources in Russia, rather than trading them for products.

The Russian government has already prepared several investment projects for German firms; Russia is especially interested in the participation of German firms in using 20 thousand closed oil wells, able to produce as much oil as is currently being produced in Russia each year.

The Russian minister of economics said that the Russian government is ready to turn the wells over to the German firms for use "on very favorable terms". Nechayev also called on German business circles to participate in international tenders for the right to develop oil fields in Tyumen and Sakhalin Island, copper fields in Udokan, and polymetallic ore fields in Priozersk.

GERMANY MAY PARTICIPATE IN PRIVATIZATION OF RUSSIAN INDUSTRY

Nechayev also told those present at the meeting that in talks between Moellemann and the head of the Russian government Yegor Gaydar the two discussed the possibility of German firms and banks participating in wide-scale privatization in Russia. Nechayev said that nearly 5.5 thousand enterprises will be privatized in the next few months, and stressed that the "conditions are perfect" now for foreign investors to participate in privatization due to "a very favorable exchange rate". Nechayev said Russia hopes that after foreigners purchase shares in privatized firms, these firms will be modernized and integrated into the world market.

Article Continues Debate on Security Issues

MK2509142092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 4

[Article by Lev Semeyko under "Polemics" rubric: "Russia's Security: Do We Need Extremes? NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Continues Discussion on New Military Doctrine"]

[Text] The basic watershed in the debate on Russian security seems to lie between assessments of external and internal threats. Some authors believe that the main threat to Russian security stems from our nearest neighbors, with their blazing or smoldering seats of ethnic conflicts. Events in the Caucasus are convincing enough in this sense. If it is not settled fundamentally, the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict may easily trigger a development of events in accordance with the Yugoslav scenario, not just in the mountain ranges of the Caucasus but also the foothills—and that includes the south of Russia. Others lay the traditional emphasis on the potential threat from outside. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has recently cited the relevant arguments, and you have to agree with many of them. In particular, with a number of positions in V. Larionov's article (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of 18 August 1992)—which in many respects is innovatory, interesting in its content, and advocates

taking into account certain modern trends in military-theoretical thought in ensuring Russia's security. However, it also contains some highly controversial positions.

First. Unlike D. Proektor (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of 21 July 1992), who sees the main threat within the CIS, Larionov is campaigning for priority to be given to ensuring that defense structures are prepared to fulfill traditional external functions. While the former author is inclined to "completely eliminate" the external danger, the latter makes it the dominating one. Evidently such extreme assessments, which are based on differing geopolitical foundations, cannot be considered the best.

The border between internal and external threats is very conditional. In its turn, the current absence of a real East-West threat absolutely does not mean that you can completely "demobilize," if only because you must not reject, even purely theoretically, what would seem to be the most unlikely version of the development of events at this level in the future. After all, the West is not rejecting it either. It is another matter that you should not overestimate the extent of theoretically possible threats. New North-South threats to security must also be taken into account, and this, incidentally, also includes those that result from an escalation of ethnic passions within the CIS framework.

However, it is scarcely worth going to the other extreme and "latching" exclusively onto the external aspect of the security problem. And particularly to try to substantiate such recommendations on the building of Russian Armed Forces as are by no means in line with the claimed priority nature of the external threats. But there is unfortunately just such a strange discrepancy in Larionov's article in the three-component composition of the Russian Armed Forces that he proposes.

Two of these components (strategic nuclear forces and a technical engineering corps) form an awesome force, of course, which is capable of deterring aggression for the simple reason that it is based on nuclear weapons. But, as they said in ancient times, the world is supported by three whales. And the third, which the author designates a rapid deployment and mobile action operational-strategic corps, is not a "whale" at all. It would simply not have the capability of repulsing aggression if a nuclear deterrent and political efforts did not work.

Indeed, would our valiant airborne troops and naval infantry really be able to defend just a part, a fairly large part, of our country, disregarding the huge perimeter of its borders (this is not required in the new conditions)? Of course not. Not just because the airborne troops have completely different combat functions from, for instance, tank and motorized rifle divisions, which are capable of coping with defense on an extensive front or carrying out a large-scale offensive. Airborne-assault troops (paratroops) mean attacks deep in the rear of the enemy, while naval infantry means aggressive operations on the coast. It is also significant that we can only be

talking about a few divisions with their corresponding restricted operational-strategic potential.

It is interesting that the Russian National Council's military program also stipulates that deterrence should be effected both by nuclear-missile forces and by "general rapid response mobile forces as well as trained local defense forces" (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of 27 August 1992). But no, Mother Russia cannot be covered with the fig leaf of "rapid response" even with the help of the local defense. Real and powerful regular troops are needed.

Of course, a rapid deployment corps should be created. However, this should be done at the same time as other armed forces structures are reformed—those that are to assume the main burden of the country's defense when the strategic nuclear tornadoes cease to roar (I do not think it will come to that, all the same) or if and when a conventional war breaks out.

What sort of reform might we be talking about here? If we can get away from the stances of bigheadedness and rejection of all that is Western in military organizational development then it is worth looking at the West's experience. First of all, something about that same corps—after all, the idea came "from over there." The rapid deployment forces which are formed in the United States during crisis periods include airborne assault, infantry, special, aviation, carrier-borne, and other combat support and troop airlift formations and units (only the Joint Central Command of these forces operates on a permanent basis). In total, this is a fairly impressive force (of the order of 300,000 men), but a limited one when it comes to waging a major war. NATO too has airmobile subunits, which number 2,500 men in all. These troops have strictly specific tasks: rapid response to local conflicts, and mainly hundreds and thousands of kilometers from the borders of the North Atlantic Alliance countries.

Military reform in the United States has also affected this component, but within the framework of the overall structural reorganization of the armed forces. According to its plan, the latter will become more efficient if they are based on four "wheels" rather than three "whales": strategic forces (offensive nuclear and defensive forces), Atlantic and Pacific forces, and also a "contingency force." As we can see, the structure is not just geared to a functional purpose, as before, but also to the geostrategic (regional) use of the armed forces.

So the renamed "rapid deployment forces" (the fourth component of the armed forces) will continue to be relatively small. This means four to five airborne assault and light infantry divisions, Marine expeditionary units, and special operations command units ("green berets"). They are reinforced by sealift and airlift facilities, and also by amphibious means. The basic role of these forces

is to operate in areas of regional conflict, both autonomously and as the forward and mobile echelon in operations like the "Desert Shield" operation in the Persian Gulf.

The role of our rapid deployment forces would have to be geared to the inside of our enormous country, or inside the Commonwealth, rather than outside them. Strictly speaking, the courageous assault forces have coped admirably with their peacekeeping functions within the CIS framework many times already. But, if need be, the immediate armed use of them in conflicts that have been designated "low-intensity conflicts" in the West (incidentally, why should we not take this concept on board?) would also be possible. This includes combating terrorism, the drugs mafia, and bandit and other illegal armed groupings: After all, the threat posed by these is becoming increasingly real. But to place the task of defending the whole of Russia (even if they are not going to defend all its borders) on the shoulders of these "flying Dutchmen" would objectively mean facing us with an entirely different threat—the threat of defeat in war.

All the indications are that the author is proceeding on the basis of the new-fangled strategic concept: If a war does prove impossible to avert, it will be waged without the classic front line, and without ground contact between large concentrations of troops. The traditional type of war will be replaced by "technological warfare" (a technology war), and so the massive multimillion-strong armies seemingly belong to the past.

Well, that is evidently how it will be, but not at the beginning of the 21st century. Millions—or at least hundreds of thousands—of soldiers are still under arms in practically all major or medium-sized states. Reduction is proceeding, of course, but not in seven-league strides by any means. The planned 25-30 percent reduction of the armed forces in the United States or Germany is not just good testimony to the departure of confrontation into the past, but also a symbol of caution, which U.S. Defense Secretary R. Cheney, for one, does not deny. Furthermore, the new U.S. national security strategy envisages the need for the rapid restoration of the previous military might on the basis of the retained key elements of military might and military-industrial complex installations. We too need caution. Russian Armed Forces of 1.5 million by the end of this decade is no overestimation. Furthermore, if a war began, the mobilization of millions of draftees would be inevitable. A readiness for "technological" warfare alone, and indeed in circumstances of the holes that have formed in our scientific and technical potential, is an extreme that must be avoided in any assessment of the military threats to the country. "State-of-the-art weaponry plus airborne assault forces" is not a formula for security, like the formula "omnidirectional defense" [kak i formula "oborony po vsem azimutam"].

And in this respect too, why should we not reflect on the option of an armed forces structure like the American

one? Why should we not create if not four then five components, inasmuch as the geography of Russia's borders is now completely different from that of the USSR? And have strategic forces, Western, Southern, and Far Eastern groups of forces, and rapid deployment forces. The armed forces grouping in the corresponding sectors would be under a single command and would include ground, air, and naval forces prepared to reliably repulse any aggression in the first period of war. Furthermore, the geostrategic orientation of these groupings would allow their leadership to coordinate actions more closely with the armed forces of neighboring CIS states in various situations—whether it be within the framework of a collective security treaty or outside such a framework. In its turn the General Staff could assume responsibility for the coordination of the actions of these groupings and the management of their training and equipping (the command and staffs of the present branches of the armed forces would evidently become superfluous in a small army).

Second. Judging by his article, V. Larionov is opposed to Russia's joining NATO even in the distant future. His credo is: We must ensure security by our own efforts alone. Two arguments are used. The first is that Russia is not only a European power but also an Asian power. This is a correct thesis, but not convincing at all in rejecting partnership (alliance) with the North Atlantic bloc. Let us put forward just three counterarguments: the United States is a member of this bloc although it is neither in Europe nor in Asia; the CSCE has a European orientation on the basis of its name alone—but several CIS

Asian republics have just joined this organization; finally, should a new collective security system in Europe not be constructed on the basis of the cooperation of all military-political and economic structures with the active participation of all the states belonging to these structures? Why propose an isolationist policy using the pro forma pretext of the geographic factor?

The author's second argument is that Russia's economic weakness will allow the NATO members to dictate conditions to us. But, first of all, attempts at pressure of any kind are possible (and even more likely) if Russia is outside this bloc. The remnants of previous confrontational attitudes will only stimulate such pressure. Second, in any configuration Russia was, is, and will continue to be a great power even if it is currently experiencing temporary difficulties. And indeed a great military power. And alliance is always better than proud solitude. Until recently, not without reason, we were still blessing the Warsaw Pact, while today we are hoping for a collective security agreement within the framework of the CIS. But hoping for "our own security"—security achieved purely through our own efforts—ultimately means casting doubt on it. It is a different matter that the NATO bloc is not yet ready for integration with Russia and other CIS states: The situation in and around them is too unstable. But in principle the question lies in the need to assess tomorrow, and even the day after tomorrow, rather than today, if we are to proceed on the basis of the long-term interests involved in the military-political guarantee of Russia's security. And developing trends point to the growing likelihood of collectivism in averting any conflicts.

Issuing of Privatization Checks Begins 1 Oct*LD0110051592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0116 GMT 1 Oct 92***[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]**

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct—Today, many thousands of Russians will become the first owners of privatization checks—vouchers. According to a report from the republic's State Committee for Management of State Property, approximately 40 million checks have been printed and sent to their destinations.

First and foremost, the remote regions of Russia have been provided with them, in particular, the Far East and Yakutia, to which 40 percent of the vouchers have been sent. Preparation and dispatching of them will be fully completed by the end of the year. It is precisely by this date that the issue of 150 million of these securities is scheduled to be completed.

But today, approximately 50,000 departments, branches, and agencies of the savings bank, as well as additional posts, have been set up in the most densely populated residential areas and remote settlements. The state has taken upon itself all the expenditure on the distribution of vouchers, having allocated more than 2 billion rubles for this purpose.

Gaydar Cautions Against Rush Sale of Vouchers*LD3010233692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network in
Russian 1800 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Interview with Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given; from the "Novosti" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gaydar] The first and main thing is not to be in a hurry, not on any account, to accept the first offer and sell your privatization vouchers for money. Remember, we are living with inflation. Money is, unfortunately, devaluing every month. The property backing up the privatization vouchers is not losing its value. Moreover, in the very near future the government intends to prepare and pass a number of supplementary normative acts that will strengthen the exchange rate of the privatization voucher: Municipal property, housing, and land will be linked to the process of privatization.

[Correspondent] I am a worker in a sphere financed by the budget. Where shall I invest my vouchers?

[Gaydar] Like any other citizen, you can take part in the purchase of the shares of any enterprise that is part of the process of privatization in Russia. First, registers will be published of the enterprises in question. The process of forming investment funds is now under way. Investing in shares of investment funds is sometimes safer because they distribute their money and their credits among many enterprises; some may do badly, others may bring

big profits. You can invest your vouchers, your privatization checks, in the shares of one of the large enterprises known to you. You can entrust them to an acquaintance who works at an enterprise that you think is efficient—to a relative—for him to invest them in his enterprise. All this is within your rights and possibilities. You can sell them, after all. The main thing is, really, to weigh everything, take a look, read about it, and listen to what is being said. And do not make a decision on day one.

Privatization Voucher Options Being Sold*PM0110095592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2***[Report by Lyudmila Raykova: "First Voucher Sold"]**

[Text] St. Petersburg—Its price is surprisingly low—8,000 rubles [R]. The very fact that the deal took place will certainly cause bewilderment. The vouchers have not yet been printed and have not been received by Russians, but deals in them have already started. How can this be?

The point is that the arsenal of instruments in the exchange game (and this actually occurred at an exchange) contains a lot of possibilities. One of them deals with options, whereby the item itself is not sold but merely the right to buy or sell it before a specified time. In this case before 1 November.

But is the price fair? Eight thousand—that is even lower than the voucher's face value. The true value of a privatization check as of today is, as they say, an open question. Attempting to answer it were participants in a seminar entitled "Privatization Checks—Objectives, Aims, and a Mechanism for Bringing Them Into Operation," organized on the initiative of St. Petersburg City Hall, the Leontyevskiy Center, and the St. Petersburg Commodity and Stock Exchange. This is where the first estimates of a voucher's value were heard: Between R200,000 and R300,000. This figure is based on the belief that the voucher itself is backed by funds of precisely the same sum. However, D. Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the State Property Committee, refused to confirm this information, comparing all attempts to estimate a privatization check's current value with reading tea leaves. He stressed that only the market will provide a voucher's true value.

However, even now privatization checks are the object of constant attention and quite often the subject of buying and selling. Entrepreneurs are not only compiling lists of pensioners, students, and people with low incomes—who, in their opinion, will be potential vendors of vouchers—but are also buying from people the entitlement to receive a privatization check. These deals are not a rarity, and in the near future they will only increase in number. Thus, the following figure was heard at the seminar: One-fourth of St. Petersburg inhabitants are prepared to sell vouchers immediately on receiving them. That is over 1 million people.

But at what price will they be sold? For R8,000, R10,000, or R300,000? Judging from entrepreneurs' activeness, a privatization check's value is set to increase. But when and by how much is not yet known. Will those who are now hurrying to sell even their right to a privatization check not have miscalculated? Maybe they should heed the opinion of another section of the population—one-eighth of Petersburg inhabitants have stated to sociologists that they intend to keep the voucher until December 1993. This time will enable the privatization check to find its position on the market. Demand for it will become settled and a fair price will be determined.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decrees on Government Structure

LD0110103692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1019 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed decrees on the new structure of the government. The documents reflect the changes in the Russian executive authority which were discussed by the government on Tuesday [29 September], TASS learned from the presidential press service.

The changes are to help create up-to-date structure of the government on the new stage of economic reforms.

Yeltsin Appoints Advisers for Defense, Sports

PM3009160592 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 26 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] The following have been appointed by decrees of the Russian Federation president:

Shamil Anvyarovich Tarpishchev as adviser to the Russian Federation president on questions of state policy in the sphere of physical education and sports;

Dmitriy Antonovich Volkogonov as adviser to the Russian Federation president on questions of defense and security.

Regional Leaders Hold Conference in Moscow

PM3009101192 Moscow *ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian* 26 Sep 92 p 1

["Own information" report: "Government 'Checks Its Watch' With the Regions"]

[Text] A working conference of heads of administrations and governments of a number of krais, oblasts, and republics within the Russian Federation was held in the Marble Hall of Government House in Moscow yesterday under the leadership of Vice Premier Valeriy Makhharadze.

"This meeting was a continuation of the conversation held at the conferences of regional leaders in Moscow and Cheboksary," Yuriy Skorokhodov, first deputy head of the Russian Federation Government's Regional Policy Department explained to *ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI*. "But this time conversation revolved around a narrower topic—participants exchanged opinions on the elaboration of approaches to creating a mechanism of support for enterprise in Russia at regional level."

Opposition Calls National Salvation Front Meeting

OW0110014092 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1718 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The organizational committee formed by the oppositional Russian National Salvation Front has called a meeting of the National Salvation Congress for October 24 in Moscow. An appeal to the population circulated September 30 reads: "The time to act has come. Today we need the strength to halt the destruction of Russia and take responsibility for the future of our country into our own hands. We need the Front for National Salvation".

Among priority objectives, the document named "the formation of a National Salvation government which will halt Yeltsin's thieving experiments, including collapsing privatization policies, and the consequent fall of the country's unified state structure and military preparedness.

The Front for National Salvation's organizational committee includes former Soviet Peoples Deputies Viktor Alksnis, Albert Makashev, Sazhi Umalatova, the writer Valentin Rasputin, the journalist Aleksandr Nevzorov, Russian Peoples Deputies Sergey Baburin, Vladimir Isakov, Mikhail Lapshin, "Agricultural Union" leader Nikolay Pavlov, Russian National Duma Co-Chairmen Gennadiy Zyuganov, former CPSU Central Committee Secretary, and KGB Major General Aleksandr Sterlingov and editors in chief of the newspapers "Den" and "Sovietskaya Rossiya" Albert Prokhanov and Vladimir Chikin.

Draft of Nationalities Policy Program Discussed

MK2909121492 Moscow *NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian* 26 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Radik Batyrshin under the "Russian Federation" rubric: "Nationalities Policy Concept Exists. State Committee for Nationalities Policy Wants To Become 'Superministry'"]

[Text] The "Nationalities Policy in the Russian Federation" conference at the "Lipki" guest house near Moscow, not far from the famous residence in Novo-Ogarevo, has ended. Officials from the Russian State Committee for Nationalities Policy, headed by

Chairman Valeriy Tishkov, and chairmen of Russian Federation local administrations responsible for the "ethnic question" in their regions participated in it. A group of scientists from the United States, whom Tishkov commended to the public as the best specialists in the sphere of interethnic relations, gave a special flavor to the conference. Despite the efforts exerted by the chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, as the conference organizer, to make it assume the form of a discussion, this did not happen, as Tishkov himself dominated everything. And the most interesting event at the conference was his report, which, as it turned out, is a draft of the Russian Government's nationalities policy program.

This document was discussed at a closed government session on 30 July under the chairmanship of Boris Yeltsin. At that time criticism of the concept by 15 ministries and departments was abundant and varied, ranging from accusations of Great Russian chauvinism to charges of Russophobia. Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of Nationalities, who was present at the session, also reacted with some jealousy to the initiative of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy. At first Yeltsin did not accept the program either, according to Tishkov. But when the criticism reached a climax, he put a stop to it by retorting: "It seems that we are being a bit fussy here. It must be said straight out that the previous State Committee for Nationalities Policy did not even get close to such an understanding of the problem, while this is a real state discussion." As a result of the "discussion," the government decided: "To instruct the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, together with the Supreme Soviet and its commissions, as well as representatives of republics, krais, and oblasts, to continue work on the concept. (...) To instruct the State Committee for Nationalities Policy to elaborate within a month materials on the most sensitive areas in interethnic relations in the Russian Federation."

The preamble to Tishkov's program, which bashfully hides behind the name "Materials for the Conference," says: "The Russian Federation Government's policy in the sphere of interethnic relations presupposes the implementation, within the framework of a single state and on the basis of general democratic principles, of the right to self-determination as:

- a) the right to self-government at territorial and national-state levels;
- b) the right of the individual to choose his own cultural identity and realize his own interests and aspirations;
- c) a real opportunity for all ethnic communities and ethnic groups to implement their political rights and provide for their just social status and national-cultural needs." The program also extends the actual sphere of nationalities policy, which is now going to include not just mutual relations between federal organs of power and Russian Federation subjects but also the whole

multiethnic population of the Russian Federation, as well as *Russians abroad* (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA emphasis)." [quotation marks as published]

The program's authors' approach is, in their opinion, innovative because the ethnic consolidation of the peoples of Russia [Rossiyane] as a state has not yet been concluded. And the "failed policy of imperial centralism, which was propped up by local partocrat elites, must give way to the policy of encouraging natural cooperation between two contradictory and reciprocal processes: ethnocultural evolution and socioeconomic integration on the basis of universal citizenship." This "innovation" has almost become a banality in world science: The main contradiction of our era has been recognized as the "ethnic paradox"—the clash of processes of general integration and ethnic revival, that is, the movement of ethnic groups who have felt that their existence as ethnic groups has been threatened by the global process of integration. But evidently it was very hard for our politicians to understand this, as the harsh criticism of the program on all sides proves. That is why the concept presupposes the gradual destatization of interethnic relations. According to the authors, this means "transferring the emphasis in the sphere of nationalities policy from the national-territorial to the national-cultural principle of organizing social life." That is, the subject of the new nationalities policy is not only the "indigenous" (title) nations in the republics, but also representatives of all nationalities on the entire territory of the Russian Federation. The establishment of a new institution—the national-cultural community—is proposed. Such communities already exist practically throughout the country's territory, and have organized themselves into cultural centers, area associations, and societies. The concept proposes to enshrine this social status in legislation, so that, for example, a Buryat could meet his ethnic needs everywhere in Russia where his diaspora lives, regardless of this territory's status.

Formulas for resolving urgent problems present the greatest interest in the concept. The concept designates as the first urgent sphere the extension of the rights of the subjects of the Federation, and the "speediest implementation of the Federation Treaty" and the "strengthening of the powers of local organs of power" are vital for this to be done. The soul of the Russophile can be soothed by the chapter entitled "Problems of the Russian People," which presupposes "raising prosperity in regions where the majority of the population is made up of Russian inhabitants," "reviving the Russian people's culture," solving the problems of the Cossacks, and granting assistance to ethnic-cultural centers abroad. "Russia's most important foreign policy priority in the region of the former USSR," the program stresses, "is to defend the principle of the full equal rights of all the inhabitants of the new states, regardless of their nationality." The concept also considers the implementation of legislative acts on repressed peoples and small peoples of the North and Siberia, and assistance to refugees and migrants, to be urgent problems. And, in connection with economic

reform, the concept warns against using "progressive reforms in the interests of specific ethnic groups," and the "usurpation by the numerically dominant population (that is, the "Russian-speaking population"—R.B.) of economic resources and resources of economic activity, which would restrict the possibility of the development of the people resident on this territory since time immemorial."

The program's basic elements include the idea of creating a state service for the prompt analysis and early exposure and solution of interethnic conflicts. This service will be accompanied by a mediation and conciliation institution in the shape of conflict commissions, arbitration tribunals, special deterrent forces of the "blue helmets" type, and so on.

The State Committee for Nationalities Policy and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet do not have a monopoly in the sphere of interethnic policy today—in addition to them there are the Commission for the North Caucasus, created by the Russian Security Council and headed by Georgiy Khizha, the interdepartmental commission headed by Valeriy Makharadze, the State Committee for the North, and the presidential apparatus. This is a classic case of "too many cooks." A typical example of interdepartmental differences of opinion is the situation concerning the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples [CCMP]. At a briefing, Tishkov stressed: "The stance of the Russian Ministry of Justice with respect to the CCMP may be irreproachable from the legal aspect, but the emotional aspect might nevertheless have been taken into account: the heroization of violence, and certain North Caucasus traditions. This step, taken by the Ministry of Justice (instituting criminal proceedings against the confederation—R.B.) has had the reverse effect—the CCMP has won enormous prestige as a result." On the basis of all this, the concept proposes to grant the State Committee for Nationalities Policy the status of an interdepartmental federal organ of administration. The "superministry" status presupposes:

"—the commitment to coordinate federal organs' decisions concerning the sphere of nationalities policy with the State Committee for Nationalities Policy;

"—the implementation of interdepartmental regulation in questions of nationalities policy;

"—the binding nature of State Committee for Nationalities Policy acts on heads of kray and oblast administrations;

"—the representation of the committee's chairman on the Security Council with membership rights;

"—the creation of an institute of empowered representatives of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy in republics, krays, and oblasts of the Russian Federation (...)."

Of course, the State Committee for Nationalities' Policy's claims to leadership in determining priorities in nationalities policy will scarcely be satisfied in multi-ethnic Russia, where any problem is in one way or another connected with this sphere. But for the first time an attempt—synchronized with a parliamentary program for the revival of the peoples of Russia—has been made to create a comprehensive model of a unified nationalities policy.

Former Security Official Protests Dismissal

PM3009105192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Boris Fedorov: "Political Investigation Continues?"]

[Text] PRAVDA receives curious documents. We have before us a statement sent to the Russian general prosecutor by Major V. Plyushchev, head of the first section of the First Department of the Russian Security Ministry's own security service, dated 25 August 1992. In his statement the major asks for an investigation into "a fantastic story" involving to him. The crux of this tale is that V. Plyushchev was relieved of his duties as section chief in Security Ministry organs for giving the Russian Supreme Soviet a copy of a resolution of the security minister in order to discredit the latter. It was a question of Barannikov's resolution, already quoted in the press, about R.I. Khasbulatov's book "Reforming Reforms." In it the minister asked his subordinates to promptly carry out a "thorough" check on the well-known joint-stock company "Agrotes" which he had been told was "funding 'Russkiy Sobor' and other similar organizations."

In his statement to the prosecutor's office Maj. V. Plyushchev categorically denies handing over this resolution and expresses indignation at the threats from his bosses warning him that a denial would "reflect very badly" on the lives of his wife and children.

What can be said about this? Evidently things are quite bad in the upper echelons of power if they are resorting to political investigations and blackmail, as in the past, and suspect everyone, including their own staffers, of treachery.

It is an obvious truism that until August 1991 opposition organizations were shadowed and dissenters were persecuted in our country. But what is the situation today? To all appearances, little has changed: Only the people being shadowed have changed.

Agricultural & Economic Issues

Agriculture Minister Updates Harvest Situation

LD3009171392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1156 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun said a grain crop of 103-104 million tonnes in brutto weight is expected this year. But this will not be enough to meet fully the needs amounting to no less than 120 million tonnes. Therefore, it will be necessary to buy grain from other countries, the minister said in an interview with AGROPRESS news agency.

The minister said that potato and vegetable crops will be at the level of last year. The sugar beet harvest will be approximately five million tonnes larger than last year. The crops of sunflower seeds and other oil-bearing cultures will be somewhat larger than last year.

The minister said that an extremely difficult situation has shaped in livestock breeding. Among negative factors that influenced the situation, Khlystun mentioned the drought and other unfavourable weather conditions that affected the situation in some 20 regions. "Grain prices in our country make up 80 per cent of world prices, but prices of meat and milk are much lower than the average world prices", the minister said. "So subsidies for livestock breeding are unavoidable", he said.

Khlystun said the government has prepared a resolution envisaging larger subsidies for specialised agricultural enterprises.

Subsidies for livestock breeding in September were the third occasion of subsidies into this area in 1992. In addition to large funds allocated by the Russian Government earlier, another 38 billion rubles will be spent on subsidies.

Nechayev, Chubays on Economy, Privatization

MK2909163392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 92 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under "Reform" rubric: "Russian Ministers Explain Themselves to Democrats. And They Promised To Fight to the End"]

[Text] "Talk of the possibility of an intermediate option between a market system and the administrative-edict system is demagoguery," Andrey Nechayev stated at a meeting of supporters of the "Democratic Choice" association. The regulated economy functions well only when there is a powerful system of pressure, such as, for instance, the raykom system which penetrates everything from top to bottom. And in order to retain even a single attribute of the administrative system—like the state regulation of prices or granting credit to loss-making state enterprises—it is necessary to again completely "staff" this pressure structure. And insofar—as Nechayev remarked—as [Acting Prime Minister] Gaydar's many opponents cannot be accused of incompetence or foolishness, then this means that, in talking about an alternative to the course of reforms being followed, they are implying the introduction of these force measures whatever words they use to disguise this.

Nechayev described in the following terms the bankruptcy of the idea of a "compromise" system and the creation of a coalition government: "Our obvious opponents can be sat down at one and the same table, but they cannot be fitted into one and the same harness insofar as by definition they are running in different directions." Moreover, as he put it, "Gaydar's wing" in the government is today already represented by four or five people, so that a further "compromise-oriented" cabinet can be achieved only by means of the final removal of the reforms team from it.

Andrey Nechayev also recalled that not so very long ago many of the present government's opponents possessed the real power to realize their own ideas and demonstrate the advantages of programs of the type "halt the disintegration, prevent the decline of production, adopt urgent measures to..., and make everyone happy."

"The man in the street does not differentiate between Khizha, Shumeyko, Nechayev, or Gaydar but sees only constant concessions by the government to the conservatives! Why does the progressive section of the government not declare the true disposition of forces by some political act or other?" came a question from someone in the audience.

"I don't think we have to start threatening resignation. Even if there is not a lot of time, it is necessary to try to succeed as far as possible," the minister replied.

Aside from this, as he said, Gaydar's supporters had already succeeded in changing the mind of some adherents of the "other" part of the cabinet; so, for instance, at a recent discussion of the volume of military purchases "Shumeyko supported the position of the Ministry of Economics, while Georgiy Stepanovich (Khizha—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) spoke for the 'correct' position."

But the minister acknowledged that it was precisely thanks to the constant compromise increase in additional credits for state enterprises that the depreciation of money had considerably accelerated in the last few weeks. Whereas in June-July prices had risen by 1-1.5 percent a week, now this figure was already 4.5-5 percent.

As Anatoliy Chubays [head of the State Committee for the Administration of State Property] had warned a day earlier when addressing representatives of the "Democratic Russia" movement, if another two or three measures are adopted for the granting of additional credit to state enterprises, then in the next few weeks we will be unable to avoid hyperinflation: "There will no longer be any sense in going to work because the money earned will depreciate before people have had time to buy something with it, there will be a complete shortage of all commodities, and people will be reduced to bartering," that is, everything will return to the situation of November-December last year, when people posted up announcements saying "I exchange sugar for buckwheat." But, as the State Property Committee chairman said, for the

time being the ruble still operates in Russia—the Gaydar government has succeeded for the first time in all of Soviet history in achieving a demand for money, and it will continue to resolutely defend its stance on the toughening of credit and finance policy.

Both Nechayev and Chubays expect “frenzied resistance” not only from “the so-called commodity producers, who are accustomed to existing on state credits and have no wish to adapt to the conditions of the market, but also—as the chairman of the State Property Committee put it—from all those who uphold Stalinist-communist ideas in our country.

Commenting on the recent statement by the “Agrarian Union” and Fatherland” factions, in which the deputies appeal for vouchers not to be issued, Anatoliy Chubays described it as follows: They talk about legal inaccuracies in the statute on vouchers, and they appeal to the honor and dignity of aggrieved deputies—in a word, they are utilizing the entire spectrum of devices in order to halt or hinder privatization in the country.

But, to judge from the words of the minister of economics and the chairman of the State committee for the Administration of State Property, the government is not only not intending to halt the issue of vouchers but also intends to include land among the objects liable to privatization via the privatization checks. This question, they announced, will be resolved by the president in the very near future.

Central Bank Head Seeks Ruble Zone Preservation

OW0110124392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1100 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] If CIS countries insist on pursuing different economic policies and their governments fail to reach understanding and coordinate their actions, Russia will have no other way out than to introduce its own monetary system and currency unit. The statement was made in an exclusive interview for IF [INTERFAX] by the acting chairman of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko. He said that his bank believes that the preservation of the ruble zone is in the economic and political interests of Russia.

In his opinion if the output of Russian companies satisfies the needs of CIS markets, the government should encourage their export efforts, especially as the trade balance is favorable for Russia. There should be international agreements regulating credits to importers of Russian goods and the terms of their payment.

Mr. Gerashchenko spoke for clear government agreements on the size of credit emission in the ruble zone. He said that the budget deficit related to emission might be reduced through issuing promissory notes and bonds.

Sources close to the Central Bank have informed IF that in the near future the bank will hardly make big foreign currency interventions to stop the fall of the ruble.

This policy is generally supported by the IMF, the sources claimed. The further fall of the ruble was not ruled out.

Black Market Dollar Exchange Rate Rises

PM3009100992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 92 p 1

[BIZNES-TASS report under the “Brief and Clear” rubric: “Ruble Has Receded Again”]

[Text] The dollar exchange rate is continuing to rise rapidly on Moscow’s “black” market. A poll of dealers conducted yesterday showed that the cash dollar is being bought in Pushkin Square at 260 rubles [R] and sold at R285.

Government Grants More Credits Than Planned

OW0110012192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1448 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has now granted more credits than was planned by the government and parliament for the second half of the year. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Russian Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Vavilov said that in July, August, and September alone, commercial banks and enterprises were granted more than 800 billion rubles in credits (instead of the 700 billion rubles scheduled for the entire second half of the year). Vavilov called these figures “very high,” but in his opinion, the government will be able to avoid further significant increases in spending, topping out at a level of about 900 billion rubles.

The deputy minister also advised that technical credits to the countries of the CIS for the settling of accounts for the delivery of goods from Russia (after the July 1 introduction of a new system of payment by correspondent accounts) had reached a total of some 250 billion rubles. According to Vavilov, the government had calculated that the sum would not exceed 200 billion rubles in the second half of the year. The minister said that this issue of credits by the Central Bank of Russia “was achieved independently, without the government’s having agreed to a single credit.” Vavilov believes that the government will be able to control the budget deficit at the level of 950 billion rubles, with the approval of parliament. He advised that in the second half of the year, the government would be allowed credits totalling 544 billion rubles for the payment of the deficit (in the first half, the analogous sum came to 400 billion rubles). At present, the government has taken out 370 billion rubles. The government is planning to spend the remaining 174 billion rubles, according to the deputy minister, by the end of the year without exceeding “the

bounds of the planned amount." Vavilov also said that the finance ministry was currently controlling the return of credits granted earlier to enterprises and banks, in particular for the purchase of the harvest. The deputy minister considers it necessary to restrict the amount of money circulating freely on the market, and to reduce the dumping of massive amounts of rubles onto currency exchanges. Furthermore, he said, the return of credits was shrinking the budget deficit. He also noted that budget expenditures were now being made in strict accordance with revenues.

Shokhin on IMF, G-7, Central Bank, Bishkek

MK3009094892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Sep 92 p 1

[Ivan Zasurskiy report under "Government" rubric: "Ruble Zone Will Be Controlled"]

[Text] A news conference held yesterday in Moscow by Vice Premier of Russia Aleksandr Shokhin was devoted to the recent session of the International Monetary Fund's Board of Directors and the participation of a Russian delegation in the talks of the G-7 countries' finance ministers.

At the news conference Mr. Shokhin specified that there will be some slippage in the planned timetable for approving a stabilization fund for Russia in connection with the requirements to establish strict control over the ruble zone.

At the meeting of the G-7 finance ministers the Russian representatives raised for the second time (the first occasion was at the Paris Club meeting) the question of rescheduling Russia's debts. As Aleksandr Shokhin stated, Russia's position met with understanding, although a final decision on the debts was not reached—if only for the reason that Russia's balance of payments is not yet known inasmuch as it is currently being calculated by an IMF mission in Moscow. Approximate figures or rough outlines ought to be with the government Thursday.

However, the most interesting statements were made following the official end of the news conference and concerned the emission policy of the Central Bank, as well as the bank's acting chairman, Mr. Gerashchenko.

Aleksandr Shokhin did not venture to unload all the responsibility for the emission of money onto the Central Bank of Russia because he also considers the government guilty of allowing it to happen; however, he found it strange that the Central Bank, "before which the government and parliament must grovel on their knees when asking for money," itself hands the stuff out (Mr. Shokhin voiced an opinion diametrically opposed to that promulgated at a Central Bank briefing Friday). "It is possible to negotiate with Gerashchenko," the vice premier declared in answer to a question on whether the head of the Central Bank should be changed, "but each time we have to negotiate from scratch." Mr. Shokhin

advocates the Central Bank of Russia's temporary subordination to the president of Russia.

Aleksandr Shokhin also shed light on Russia's position in Bishkek on "Nazarbayev's initiatives" and the securing of control over the ruble zone.

As it was stated, Russia has the drafts of three options for agreements on the creation of a supranational bank and currency. In Aleksandr Shokhin's words, the republics are faced with a choice: either the ruble or a national currency. And if it is to be the ruble, then either under interrepublic control or under the control of the Central Bank of Russia—with the vice premier, "who does not tolerate democracy in banking matters," preferring the second option. One way or another, things will have to be sorted out in the middle of October.

Nechayev Expresses Optimism About Economy

PM0110125192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Sep 92 p 1

[S. Razin report under the "Political Crossroads" rubric: "Andrey Nechayev: The Reports of the Government's Death Are Exaggerated"]

[Text] The economics minister did not let journalists out of his office for two hours, revealing a sincere readiness to get on close, friendly terms with the press for the next month at least. Might it be too late afterwards?

Describing the reports of the government's death as somewhat exaggerated, the economics minister spoke happily and at length about the actual economy. Structural reorganization in industry is the main problem. The government has a highly constructive program here, according to Nechayev. The general strategy here is that the the exchequer will give support to the largest and most important state enterprises, but by no means all of them, and on a very, very selective basis. And those which fail to get on board Noah's ark are threatened with bankruptcy, but not barbaric bankruptcy—with a series of suicides—but, as far as possible, civilized bankruptcy. The minister cordially advised bankrupt enterprises to contact the special commission in charge of revitalizing enterprises, which is being set up inside the State Committee for the Management of State Property, which will determine in an expert way how a loss-making production unit may best be converted without too many workers being pushed out of jobs.

Nechayev did not disguise his optimism. Take, for example, the military-industrial complex—the whole of the tenth floor of his ministry is awash with specific projects streaming in from defense firms. Conversion credit worth 77 billion rubles [R] will have been allocated to those ends before the year is out. The money will be received by those who are most astute in making inroads into the consumer market or, even better, the world market. Moreover, the economics minister is in a way put out by the fact that purely military spending for 1993 has shown a marked increase—to R1.6 trillion. The

figure is of course impressive, but actual militarist expenditure on arms purchases will only grow by 10 percent. The bulk of the money will go on housing officers and other army needs plus R&D work which promises dual-purpose technology. Moreover, the military-industrial complex has obtained the right to sell weapons for export directly and intends to earn at least \$3 billion in 1993.

Nechayev articulated his conversion monologue with special satisfaction, as if demonstrating his loyalty to the military-industrial complex diehards. It seems that the reformists see precisely in their midst reliable allies, for the sake of whom Gaydar sacrificed financial stabilization this summer. State enterprises have now cast off almost all their debts—of R3.2 trillion in reciprocal nonpayments only R600 billion remain. However, it is again the population that has had to pay off the state sector's debts: The rise in prices and the new wave of inflation have taken even more out of citizens' pockets. But now the state sector's financial robbery will be over. In the fourth quarter almost all classes of budget expenditure, including centralized capital investment, fuel and energy complex subsidies, and even support for private farmers, will be cut. True, the captains of the oil industry will be able to make up their losses at the population's expense. Nechayev confirmed that, although the government keeps this process under strict control, energy prices have already been freed and will increase automatically as a response [v protivovos] to the galloping inflation. The minister, incidentally, expressed no small surprise at the fact that petrol has hitherto been traded too cheaply. According to his estimates, Ai-93 cannot cost less than R24 per liter now. He was pleased, there is no denying it. Incidentally, what is there to be surprised at here? The government's oil policy sets a specific target—that of raising energy prices to the level of world prices, deriving considerable gain for the exchequer at the same time.

Won't V. Gerashchenko thwart such far-reaching government intentions to improve finances? After a pregnant pause the economics minister answered the question. Of course the government has to work with the Central Bank of Russia on a day-to-day basis. The head of the bank consequently consults with Gaydar, but until recently he would regularly surprise the premier with some new flight of fancy. However, disagreements with the Central Bank do seem to be behind us. He has done his duty: Geraschenko was able to improve state enterprises' financial affairs very quickly. We are now reaching the point where the industrialists themselves are talking about measures to strengthen the ruble. Gaydar, naturally, won't object. The only problem is: Will a second attempt by the monetarists to curb inflation will be successful?

Sobchak on Economic Reforms, Premiership

*LD2909191792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1626 GMT 28 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomichyova]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 28 TASS—"The most suitable figure for the post of prime minister who can extricate Russia from crisis, is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. But it does not mean that Yegor Gaydar's cabinet should immediately resign. The huge possibilities of Russian leaders are not confined to several names. The fate of current reforms should not be linked to individual names, reforms can be successfully continued even if the present government steps down," mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoliy Sobchak, told a news conference today.

"The issuing of vouchers will be understandable to the people only when everyone can buy a house or plot of land for his privatization cheque. Otherwise, it becomes senseless, the head of the executive power of the city stressed.

"We are now considering an issue on the forming of a government in St. Petersburg. We invited Grigoriy Yavlinskiy to come with his team to carry out reforms on a regional scale. Yavlinskiy agreed in principle," the mayor said.

The political life in St. Petersburg is characterized by growing militancy of national patriotic organisations. They hold meetings regularly, though not very large. What is upsetting is that democratic forces of the city stopped functioning, exist formally and do not size up the present political situation, Sobchak believes.

We are also resolving another important problem. The city on the Neva river has no square meter of vacant land as it is all belongs to the leningrad regional authorities. Therefore, we propose to declare a 50-kilometer zone around St. Petersburg as federal lands and hand them over under control of the city. In the future it is necessary to unite the city and regional power structures to resolve single regional problems in a normal way, Anatoliy Sobchak pointed out.

Trade Unions Support Correcting Reform Course

*LD2909192592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554
GMT 29 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 29 TASS—Branch and regional trade unions - members of the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions consider it possible to support the reform course only in case it is crucially corrected in the interests of the working people, federation chairman Igor Klochkov told today's news conference.

Klochkov informed the news conference on the federation stand as regards the implementation of the state privatization program, as well as on the aims and tasks of federation collective actions.

In his opinion, "under the pretext of a slogan on popular privatization and care about millions of owners, the nomenclature variant of privatization, corresponding to

the interests of a narrow group of deals and corrupted officials, is being implemented."

It would be better to cancel tough terms of forced turning of enterprises into joint stock societies, hold the indexation of vouchers in accordance with the price rise and re-estimation of the basic funds' cost. Besides, the authorities shall guarantee the rights of working collectives as regards the form of property and privatization methods," he said.

Government Resolution on Regulating Energy Prices

*PM2909141592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 25 Sep 92 First Edition p 4*

[Resolution No 724 of the Russian Government "On State Regulation of Prices of Energy Resources, Other Kinds of Output, and Services," signed by acting Russian Premier Ye. Gaydar and dated 17 September in Moscow]

[Text] In execution of the Russian president's Decree No 1089 of 17 September 1992 "On State Regulation of Prices of Individual Kinds of Energy Resources" the Russian Government resolves:

1. That the Russian Finance Ministry and the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Power Generation must submit to the Russian Government within one week proposals on differentiating excise duty rates in 1992 for oil, including gas condensate, in the light of existing mining and geological conditions for their extraction and on the procedure for collecting this duty.

Until differentiated rates of excise duty are introduced, a rate of excise duty on oil, including gas condensate, of 18 percent is to be introduced.

2. To establish that excise duty be paid into the federal budget and used in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Russian Finance Ministry. Excise duty is paid into the budget by enterprises extracting oil, including gas condensate.

3. To establish that the supply and sale markups on prices of oil products for which the Russian president's decree No 1089 of 17 September 1992 makes provision may be changed for some enterprises by the Russian Ministry of Economics Prices Committee.

4. To establish that changes to existing electricity and heating tariffs in connection with the change in fuel prices in line with the Russian president's decree No 1089 of 17 September 1992 be effected in 1992 by the Federal Power Generation Commission formed by Russian Government Ordinance No 493-R of 16 March 1992.

5. That the Russian Ministry of Economics, in conjunction with the Russian Ministry of Railways, examine within one month the results of the financial activity of

railroad enterprises and where necessary submit to the Russian Government proposals for changes in the level of freight shipment tariffs.

6. To establish that the Russian Ministry of Economics Prices Committee has the right to change the maximum coefficients envisaged by the Russian president's decree No 1089 of 17 September 1992 for the increase in passenger and baggage transport tariffs on various modes of transport on individual lines and routes.

7. To lay down as of 1 January 1993 a maximum level of profitability of 20 percent of prime cost when forming free tariffs for carrying passengers by air and associated work and services.

As a partial change to Russian Government resolution No 576 of 11 August 1992, to also apply this level of profitability to air transport enterprises exercising a monopoly.

To grant the Russian Ministry of Economics Prices Committee the right at the submission of the Russian Transport Ministry to raise the maximum level of profitability in the light of air transport enterprises' expenditure on social requirements.

8. In addition to point 1 of Russian Government resolution No 270 of 24 April 1992, to provide that state communications enterprises set tariffs for the population for the installation of telephones and subscription charges for the use of telephones in urban and rural areas, coordinating the level of these tariffs with management organs in republics within the Russian Federation, krais, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

9. That the Russian Finance Ministry and management organs of republics within the Russian Federation, krais, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, when increasing the price of energy resources, set subsidies for housing and municipal services, transport services, and the production of basic kinds of agricultural output and also in the sale of automobile gasoline and liquefied gas to refuel automobiles to certain categories of invalids.

10. To deem the following null and void:

Points 1 and 5 on wholesale oil prices, point 2, paragraph 2 of point 4 on payments into the price regulation fund during oil shipments, point 16, and paragraphs 1 and 2 of point 18 of Russian Government resolution No 318 of 18 May 1992 "On State Regulation of Prices of Energy Resources, other Kinds of Output, and Services";

Point 8 of Russian Government resolution No 411 of 20 June 1992 "On State Support for the Functioning of Transport in the Russian Federation in 1992."

11. This resolution enters into force 18 September 1992.

[Signed] Ye. Gaydar

Government To Buy Oil at Ruble Prices

OW3009013892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government plans to buy oil from domestic producers at internal ruble price for concentrated state export, said Foreign Economic Ties Minister Pyotr Aven in an INTERFAX interview Tuesday. He also said the government plans to sell the oil on the world market at world dollar prices.

Attempt To Smuggle Strategic Metals Thwarted

OW2609014992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] State security forces and the Krasnodar regional Internal Affairs Department seized train cars full of aluminum and magnesium at the Adler 11 train station. The metals are of strategic significance, had no accompanying documents, and were, according to operative information, intended for transport to Georgia. The Krasnoyarsk Aluminum Factory and one of the Krasnoyarsk defense enterprises dispatched the cargo. According to preliminary estimations, the metal is valued at 500mn [million] rubles.

It is possible that the metal could have been intended for further transport abroad—to Turkey.

Representative of the Russian Ministry of Security in the Krasnodar region Igor Volkov told journalists that 6 more train cars with strategic metals were unloaded and the cargo was hidden—possibly in waiting for propitious automobile or sea freight.

Military Issues

Chief Military Inspector Comments on Defense Law

PM3009152792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Sep 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS correspondent A. Naryshkin report: "Army General Konstantin Kobets Has Praised Defense Law Highly"]

[Text] Moscow, 25 September—Army General Konstantin Kobets, Russian Federation Armed Forces chief military inspector and chairman of the Ministry of Defense Military Legislative Commission, welcomed the Law on Defense which the Russian Parliament adopted on Thursday [24 September]. He stated today in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that this normative act has provided a good legal basis for ensuring the military organism's normal functioning. The law has created a basis for working up and introducing other acts, with reference to military service,

servicemen's status, the basic principles of military organizational development, and the reform of the Armed Forces.

In connection with the fact that the draft law contained a number of inaccuracies of a technical nature, as well as not covering in its purview several newly formed state structures, the Russian President Boris Yeltsin considered it necessary to make appropriate amendments, the chief military inspector pointed out. The president recommended in particular that Civil Defense troops, troops and organs of the Russian Security Ministry, the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information, and the Russian Federation Main Directorate for Protection should be called on to accomplish defense tasks. In the course of discussions, parliament agreed to include in the list of structures responsible for defense the Russian Security Ministry and government communications troops, leaving their organs of command outside the "framework" of this system. Such a decision naturally significantly reduces the potential for commanding these forces, especially in crisis situations, Army General Kobets pointed out. It is evident, he said, that it is necessary to iron out this contradiction in the course of further work on the documents that regulate the troops' activities.

The Russian president is at the same time also the supreme commander in chief of the Russian Armed Forces. Therefore, it was proposed that the Armed Forces' structure and size, and the quantity of posts in which generals and admirals deputize, be filed in the Supreme Soviet not by a submission from the government but by a proposal from the president. Parliament adopted this amendment which is fairly well-founded and logical. The president, as the supreme commander in chief, should appoint the minister of defense. There has been a delay in putting this paragraph into effect by a Supreme Soviet resolution until the appropriate amendment in the Constitution has been made.

Parliament has also adopted an amendment concerning military courts' jurisdiction. Thus, a consensus was found in the course of discussions between the legislative and executive powers when examining contentious questions, and today we have a normal legislative act which regulates the activities of state structures when accomplishing tasks concerning the country's defense, Army General Konstantin Kobets concluded.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Military Draft

PM3009153192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Russian president's decree No 1138 "On Draft of Russian Citizens for Active Military Service October-December 1992 and on the Discharge Into the Reserve of Soldiers, Sailors, Sergeants, Petty Officers, and Military Construction Workers Who Have Completed Their Term of Active Military Service" signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 28 September]

[Text] In order to staff the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and troops and military formations of Russian ministries and departments I resolve:

1. To draft Russian citizens born between 1965 and 1974 who do not have the right to a deferral into the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and troops and military formations of Russian ministries and departments to perform active military service of the following duration:

a period of two years for sailors and petty officers of ships and support ships and units of the Navy and marine units of the Russian Federation border troops;

a period of one year for soldiers, sailors, sergeants, and petty officers with higher education;

and a period of one year six months for other soldiers, sailors, sergeants, and petty officers.

2. To discharge into the reserve in October-December 1992 soldiers, sailors, petty officers, and military construction workers who have completed the prescribed period of active military service.

3. The Russian Federation Government and organs of executive power of the republics within the Russian Federation, krays, and oblasts must ensure the fulfillment of measures connected with the draft for active military service.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Kremlin, Moscow

28 September 1992

Decree No 1138

Plight of Unit Withdrawn From Baltics

PM3009140192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report by N. Poboshchenko and S. Morozov in Novgorod; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Poboshchenko] The command of the Tartu heavy bomber division, which was headed by General Dudayev not so long ago, has moved. Henceforth it will be stationed in the city of Soltsy in the Novgorod region. This is part of the withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces from the Baltic countries. The regiment, holder of the Berlin Order of Kutuzov and Order of Aleksandr Nevskiy, has been switched from Tartu directly to the Far East. However, only the regimental colors, seal, and a few airmen have actually gone there. Most of the airmen have been posted to other units or have quit the Armed Forces altogether. The already difficult living conditions in a Soviet garrison have deteriorated even further. There are 312 families of officers and NCO's with no housing at all. Supplies of fuel and equipment spares have not just been cut back but completely cut off. In the officers' cafeteria, airmen are offered a spoon of

condensed milk instead of a glass of fresh milk, and fresh fruit, even now at the height of the fall, is being replaced with moldy dried fruit.

[Major G. Ivanov] We are feeling the effects of being under strength. We cannot fly normally or serve normally. [video shows planes, living conditions]

Supreme Soviet

Official Protests Transcaucasian Arms in Georgia

LD3009215392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitaskay]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The documents adopted last week by the Russian parliament, in connection with the events in Abkhazia, fully conform to international norms, considers Viktor Sheinis, a member of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet. He headed a group of parliamentarians, which prepared drafts of these documents, described by Georgia's State Council chairman, Eduard Shevardnadze, as a blatant intervention in the internal affairs of his country.

Addressing a press conference of the parliamentary reform coalition, Viktor Sheinis, emphasised "according to international law, the protection of human rights is not an internal affair and Russia, like any other state, can raise the question of human rights, wherever they are violated." The people's deputy is convinced that arms remaining under the control of the Transcaucasian Military District "must not be under any circumstances handed over to Georgia, and the conflict in Abkhazia must be resolved through peaceful means only."

Regarding another topic, one of the reform coalition leaders, Vyacheslav Volkov, reaffirmed the coalition's intention to seek Ruslan Khasbulatov's resignation from the post of the parliament's speaker. "Our work in this direction is acquiring more fundamental and planned character," he emphasised. "We want to create the required majority, which will support us on this issue during the Congress of Russian People's Deputies," he said.

According to him, prior to consideration of the issue regarding the improvement of the Russian Supreme Soviet's work (scheduled to be held on 22 October) during the Russian Parliament's session, the Parliamentary Reform Coalition will not raise the question of Ruslan Khasbulatov's resignation.

Supreme Soviet Statement on Abkhazia

PM3009100592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Russian Supreme Soviet Closed Session"]

[Text] The evening closed session of the Supreme Soviet 25 September discussed the situation in the North Caucasus in connection with events in Abkhazia. The statement adopted on this subject states:

"The state of affairs in Abkhazia is cause for serious concern in the Russian Federation. The introduction of armed formations into Abkhazia by the Georgian Supreme Council has led to the emergence of a military conflict and to people being killed.

"The accords reached at the 3 September 1992 Moscow summit formed the basis for a peaceful and civilized settlement of the conflict, but it has not yet proved possible to achieve a cease-fire and to implement the Moscow summit accords in full. Acts of violence against the peaceful residents of Abkhazia—including tens of thousands of people with ethnic roots in Russia—are continuing in the conflict region. There is also concern about the participation in the conflict of paramilitary volunteer detachments formed by national and social movements in a number of North Caucasus republics, which is resulting in the violence spreading to Russian Federation territory.

"The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet:

"is discussing the policy of the Georgian leadership, which is trying to resolve complex problems of interethnic relations by force, and demands that it immediately end its armed operations, withdraw military formations from Abkhaz territory, and unswervingly carry out international human rights pacts;

"states that it is necessary to further develop the Moscow accords and considers it necessary to this end to immediately hold a meeting of the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, and the republics, krais, and oblasts of the North Caucasus to solve the main issue—an unconditional cease-fire;

"believes that the package of accords should include the agreed withdrawal of Georgian armed forces from Abkhaz territory, together with the simultaneous disarmament, disbandment, and removal from Abkhazia of volunteer armed formations and groups, as well as the introduction of the necessary contingent of peacekeeping forces, to ensure the safety of citizens and the functioning of roads and key industrial facilities. Only on this basis will it be possible for the legitimate organs of power in Sukhumi to start work, to clear the main rail line, to bring about the return of refugees, and to start organizing normal life in Abkhazia...

"The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is prepared to act as intermediary in resolving these issues."

The session ratified the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution "On the Situation in the North Caucasus in connection with Events in Abkhazia," which, in particular, instructs the Russian president and Government to immediately move to hold a new meeting of the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, and the republics,

krais, and oblasts of the North Caucasus in order not only to bring about a cease-fire in Abkhazia, but also to stabilize the situation in the region—a start on which was made at the 3 September Moscow meeting.

The resolution envisages the elaboration and implementation of a range of measures to protect the Russian Federation's interests on the state border in the North Caucasus region, laying down a timetable for the relevant proposals to be submitted to the Supreme Soviet; it halts transfers to Georgia of armaments, combat hardware, and munitions from Russian Federation Armed Forces units and combined units, even under previously concluded contracts, including munitions; and it regulates the provision of humanitarian aid to the population in the conflict region.

Khasbulatov Appeals for Tajikistan Peace

PM2909194192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 30 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Letter to A.I. Iskandarov, acting president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, from R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Respected Akbarsho Iskandarovich.

People in Russia and the other Commonwealth countries are following with great alarm the dramatic development of events in Tajikistan, where a civil conflict has been in progress for several months now. As a result of the unceasing armed clashes, blood is being spilled, there are many deaths, and the number of refugees is growing. A real threat to the republic's constitutional system, democratic transformations, and even to its territorial integrity has arisen.

It is obvious that there is no alternative but to settle the conflict by peaceful, political means. This was mentioned at the first session of the CIS's Interparliamentary Assembly in Bishkek. This standpoint receives the full support of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which has an interest in strengthening the Tajik leadership's effort to make peace through striving for a cease-fire, arrange a dialogue between the warring sides, and to achieve a national reconciliation in the name of the well-being of all Tajikistan's citizens.

Your republic is a multinational state. A significant number of Russian-speaking people have lived here for many decades sharing grief and joy with the Tajiks. We express the hope that the Tajik authorities will be able to guarantee their security as well, and protect their property rights and other rights. The Russian Supreme Soviet is ready to maintain close contacts with Tajikistan's parliamentarians and to facilitate the peaceful resolution of all contentious questions—as was stipulated in the Interparliamentary Assembly's documents. It seems that it is necessary to use the potential of the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States, whose good will

was stated in an appeal to the people of Tajikistan, in this most difficult of questions.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet hopes that the Tajik people's wisdom will prevail and peace and harmony will be restored to the friendly Republic of Tajikistan.

As chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States, I appeal to all sides in conflict, in order to preserve their fellow citizens' lives, and, in the name of peace and harmony, to stop the armed clashes and resolve the conflicts that have arisen through peaceful negotiations.

With profound respect,

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov

Government Asked To Give Ministry Currency

PM2909145592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report: "Russian Foreign Ministry Cannot Operate on Starvation Rations of Hard Currency"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations recently examined the issue of the Russian Foreign Ministry's currency and financial position.

The committee members deemed it unsatisfactory and damaging to our country's political and diplomatic relations and adopted a decision to instruct the government to consider the question of allocating the ministry \$17 million by 15 October 1992 to clear its arrears to personnel at establishments abroad in respect of wages, leasing of premises, and municipal services.

In addition, it was decided to instruct the government to review the pay of personnel abroad with a view to introducing a unified procedure for paying salaries in rubles for personnel of all Russian establishments on long-term assignment abroad. And to instruct the Foreign Ministry to take additional steps to enlist extrabudgetary sources of funding.

It was recommended that Russian state budget funding of the activity of representatives of the CIS countries working in Russian Foreign Ministry establishments abroad be suspended and reasonable cuts be made in some departments' representation in Russian establishments abroad.

Regional Affairs

Kabardino-Balkaria Opposition Submits Demands

LD0110095192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik October 1 TASS—The opposition in Kabardino-Balkaria, a Caucasian republic inside Russia, advanced eight demands to official authorities at a meeting which ended last night. They want, in particular, that riot police and special task forces be pulled out of the republic, that the president and the government resign and a coalition government is formed. The opposition represented by supporters of the Confederation of Caucasian Highlanders warned they will call for an endless rally in case authorities neglect their demands.

A rally in which three thousand people participate is going on in downtown Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria. The Congress of the Kabarda people which organised the rally lost its control over the demonstrators.

Rallies are taking place throughout Kabardino-Balkaria, both in support and against the government and the president. The Russian-speaking congress appealed to the people to avert the ousting of lawful authorities by nationalists, to avoid bloodshed and to protect territorial integrity, lawful authorities, peace and quietness in the republic.

Caucasus Group To Proclaim New Union 3 Oct

OW3009154592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the officials of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus [CMPC], Taras Shamba, says that the CMPC's plan to proclaim the formation of a Confederation or Union of Republics and Caucasian Peoples at a two-day conference due to start in Nalchik, the capital of the Chechen republic, on Saturday [3 October] must not be seen as an attempt to set up a unitary state in the region. In an IF [INTERFAX] interview, he said the question was one of an attempt to flesh out the model of co-existence between regional peoples.

The proposed Confederation or Union is expected to be an associated member of "the Caucasian Homeland", a semi-public organisation proclaimed by Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev early this month. Shamba said the Caucasian Homeland was an academic-style organisation designed to conduct research into the shape of a would be confederation.

He said the new Confederation might form a wing of the Caucasian Homeland which would embrace both indigenous and non-indigenous people such as Kumyk, Nagai, Balkar, and Karachayev ethnic groups as well as Mountain Cossacks.

Unlike the CMPC comprising 16 regional movements, the new Confederation (Union) is expected to unite more than 20 ethnic groups plus the Chechen and Abkhazian republics.

Russia, Tatarstan Publish Provisional Pact

OW3009224392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A provisional agreement between the Russian and Tatar governments kept secret until now was recently published in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan.

The agreement stated that before closing an agreement on the additional delimitation of power between state bodies of power of the Russian Federation and Tatarstan, the two governments agreed on the following:

1. The Tatarstan government would pay off debts to the republican budget of the Russian Federation developed within the first half of 1992 and make a monthly transfer to the republican budget of the Russian Federation in the second half of 1992.
2. In turn, the Russian government would retain for 1992 the existing procedures for financing Tatar establishments and organizations, and lift export duties on Tatarstan's regional quota of 2.7 mn [million] tons of oil.
3. Tatarstan would receive the right to use all currency proceeds from the sale of the indicated quantity of oil for the import of goods to Tatarstan.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Speech to Supreme Soviet 30 Sep

LD0110121392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Speech by President Leonid Kravchuk to the Supreme Soviet session in Kiev—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed people's deputies! I intend in this extraordinary report to aim at an analysis of the main issues in the political and socio-political situation in the republic, of those urgent tasks that we must solve together in the near future. [passage omitted: the first year of Ukraine's independence showed the world its determination to build a democratic law-governed state and the unity of the Ukrainian nation]

Having analyzed our one year of experience, we concluded that we should considerably reinforce our efforts regarding protection of the national revival and national security of Ukraine. More decisiveness is needed in this matter on the part of all forms of power, of all state institutions. We cannot allow, and have no right to allow, sociopolitical or ethnic enmity to be stirred in our country. We have learned too painful historical lessons, we know too well where confrontation between peoples ends and who profits by it. If we look at the political and inter-ethnic aspects of the problem, we see it is very important to solve these acute problems, which excite public opinion and give ground to corresponding forces to speculate on them, correctly and in accordance with the defined strategy. [passage omitted: general examples of wrong ethnic policies, calls for sensible steps in building up the state]

Today in the political life of Ukraine, the process of creating new political entities is continuing. While before the well-known events of August 1991 there were five political parties registered here, over the past year they have been joined by another 10. New party coalitions have appeared. At the same time, the process of defining parties through different political platforms or open confrontation is taking place. In a word, we can say that there are a lot of parties around, but a multi-party system of full value is not yet in existence. A characteristic sign of the present moment is the fact that an attempt is being made to provide consolidation of all Ukraine's political forces. It is important that it should take place not through creating political groups that have a monopoly and influence on processes in society, but by creating a union of constructive forces that will take upon themselves responsibility to build up Ukraine. [passage omitted: different ways to assess achievements]

The issue of unifying people, unifying all forces, is one of the most important conditions of our further independent development. [passage omitted: elaborates on the issue of consolidation and harm of dividing people into camps, and positive and negative aspects of a multi-party system]. I think that it would be much better for Ukraine if the political parties and their leaders directed

their energy toward effective economic and political provision of independence, providing normal conditions of life for people, and proposing realistic programs for getting out of the crisis. [Word indistinct] in many cases, instead of putting forward such programs, we see only slogans and attempts to monitor the president and government as though, supposedly, they dream about betraying Ukraine and destroying its sovereignty through the CIS or the Dagomys or the Yalta treaties.

Sharp political discussions in the parliament and in society about those problems polarize people further. The numerous statements and appeals to the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government demonstrate this. Therefore, we cannot take seriously the statements of those who are guided not by a deep knowledge of the situation, but by their [word indistinct] selfish view of those problems. [passage omitted]

The insufficient political consolidation of society reflects also on the religious situation. Now, as is known, the process of forming national churches of Ukraine is under way, requiring national-religious self-determination for both followers and clerics. But it cannot happen instantaneously; great patience, political tact, and balance are needed. Therefore, I believe it is very important [word indistinct] that process so that it will not go beyond the limits of the law. Alongside the moral and ethical problems of religion, the state is facing the problem of giving material aid to believers in constructing churches. And the republican power structures and local authorities should act here in a coordinated manner. Not to redive religious buildings, which worsens the social tensions, but to provide practical assistance to those who want to construct new churches.

I see constructive dialogue between religious activists as one of the methods of removing tension in interdenominational relations. During my visit to Lvov for the reburial of the remains of Patriarch Josef Slepoy, I was convinced that understanding is possible between denominations. And those people, including officials, who stir up inter-denominational (?conflicts), and do not respect the laws of Ukraine, should be held responsible before the law. [passage omitted: proposes to convene an ecumenical congress for deciding the future of the Ukrainian church]

In the current situation, under these difficult circumstances, I believe that the roundtable will remain an effective form for mutual consultation of political forces and the instrument to search for common points of view. I think that the next such roundtable could be held in December of this year, where issues of Ukraine's economic development, priorities of political consolidation of our society, and strategy and tactics for improving the political system of Ukraine could be discussed and defined in a more concrete manner.

The primary tasks in this sphere, in our opinion, are as follows: With the Constitution as a basis,

- strengthen legislative, executive, and legal power and all the political, legal, and other institutions of this power;
- strengthen Ukraine's national security;
- render more active the process of discussion and adoption of the new constitution of Ukraine—there should not be any fear that certain aspects will have to be amplified or that some articles will have to be restructured, this is why drafts are submitted;
- accelerate the adoption of a new law on elections on a multi-party basis;
- implement by stages the law on public associations and bring activities of all political forces of Ukraine in compliance with it while assessing from the legal point of view those that, consciously or not, pose a threat to Ukrainian statehood or compromise the ideas of democracy and a law-governed state.

The time has come to address all forces with an appeal to stop chauvinist and nationalist propaganda and to prevent playing of the anti-Russian card. On the other hand, the law should be used against those who stir up inter-ethnic conflicts and encroach on the territorial integrity of Ukraine. I believe that all the power structures, as well as the Procurator's General Office and the court, should define themselves more clearly. If we are to overcome the economic crisis, there should be a real program of support and material protection for those who need it. [passage omitted: elaborates on confrontation in public conscience regarding the historical past of Ukraine] In this connection, I propose to adopt an act of public and political reconciliation that will be open to each Ukrainian citizen. It will be a significant step on the way toward consolidation of all political forces of Ukraine.

[Passage omitted: calls for sensibility in implementing those ideas, avoiding historical revenge; switches to economic issues, complains of poor economic inheritance from the old regime] The national income has dropped by 15 percent over the first half of 1992 in comparison with the similar period from last year; production of industrial produce has dropped by 12 percent and consumer goods by 17 percent. I only want to say that, compared to the beginning of the year, the rate of decline has slowed down.

Proceeding from a realistic assessment of the situation, we should recognize as the aim of the current stage of the economic reform:

- the prevention of economic collapse;
- the survival of the people's state;
- and the transformation of the socio-political system.

The government is looking for ways out of the crisis. [passage omitted: reasons for crisis, which has spread over all former USSR] I would like to dwell on some points of principle.

First, our course on exiting from the ruble zone; on development of market relations; acceleration of privatization and demonopolization; and increasing independence of the economic sector with increasing state influence on the state sector of the economy. The course of liberalization of the external economic activities of enterprises has met with understanding and support. Time shows there is no alternative to this course. [passage omitted: any deviations from this course are doomed]

Second, the thesis concerning the increase of state influence on the state sector of the economy should not be perceived as direct interference with production. [passage omitted: justifies need for this influence, talks about the current transitional period and its necessity] Naturally, the rights of enterprises, their interests, should be at the heart of economic actions. All bureaucratic structures that obstruct or retard the reforms should be removed, but the interests of enterprises must join the general picture of the aims we want to reach. In implementing reforms and setting the economic strategy and tactics one should use a management and engineer corps as a basis, be brave and show initiative, and take responsibility upon oneself.

Third, to prevent the tendency toward centralizing economic functions—there have been such attempts, and they have often been mentioned here—it is necessary to increase the role of regional power structures in every way to resolve important economic and social tasks. The source of formulating their budgets should be noted in terms of specific funds and resources. It is important to create an effective mechanical interest for the administration and regional representative bodies in implementing privatization, on the one hand, and their responsibility for this so that it does not turn into this so-called grabbing privatization [prykhvatyzatstia].

I am deeply convinced that in the situation of general economic instability and rapid change, we should act dynamically and correct these actions but not retreat from the determined route. It is precisely because of this that the main point in economic policy is that the state should move continuously in the direction of realizing the basic priorities, which are noted in the corresponding document, and the fundamentals of national economic policy as approved by the Supreme Council.

Regarding the specific means for their realization, this should be guaranteed by the executive power. In some cases one must be prepared to play it by the letter because today there is no other path.

Now, about the government and this resolution which the Supreme Council adopted. As is known, according to the Supreme Council resolution of 7 July on the lack of confidence in the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers, it was proposed that the Ukrainian president examine the question of the current composition of the cabinet of

ministers. Proposals on the composition of the new government were submitted for consideration to the Supreme Council.

We worked hard on this problem. We consulted with political parties, deputies, and directors of leading enterprises. Opinions and proposals were just diverse but frequently polarized. Everyone shared the same leading thesis: It is necessary to deepen reforms and to act more decisively and with initiative. It is necessary to form a government of reforms, give it more freedom to adopt normative documents which have not yet been adopted, and subordinate those structures which play an important role in implementing reforms—the National Bank, the property fund, and others—to the government. [passage omitted]

Considering the situation that has taken shape today, Premier Vitold Pavlovych Fokin decided that the government cannot continue in such a situation to effectively carry out its programs. [applause from deputies] Aspiring for peace and accord, to avoid further sharpening of the situation—this is already happening and all the forces in Ukraine, even children, are being involved in it—Vitold Pavlovych Fokin approached me with a request to accept his resignation in connection with his retirement. [applause] [passage omitted: rebukes deputies for lack of manners in applauding]

Agreeing with such a decision, I at the same time asked Vitold Pavlovych to carry out his duties until the question of a new head of the government is resolved.

We need to balance each side and discuss possible candidatures for this very high and responsible post, to make a coordinated decision. There should be discussions in commissions and deputies groups, and people should be asked for advice, because the premier will be carrying out his duties not only for the president and the Supreme Soviet and will not merely be submitting to the Supreme Soviet an already coordinated candidature. It is totally understood that it should be a person who will implement our reforms and who will be devoted to our cause.

Proceeding from this I submit a proposal not to discuss and not to listen to the government's report on the implementation of the resolution on the basis of the national economic policy. There is no need for that now. The analysis that has been made can be continued in the commissions and in the deputies groups and outside the Supreme Soviet so that that analysis can be used by a new premier in his work.

I do not think there is such a great need at this moment to speak broadly about the changes that have already taken place in the government, but I want to mention some facts to you so the people can hear them. You know that the post of first deputy prime minister has been introduced into the structure of the government and that Symonenko was appointed to this post. He (also) heads the coordinating council on questions of economic reform which was formed. The council will guarantee

coordination and efficiency of actions by the organs of state executive power and will concentrate the main levers of management of economic reform in one set of hands.

The currency and credit council that was formed by the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers and is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Slepichev has begun its work. It determines the priority of directions in Ukraine's currency and credit policy. With the goal of working out a coordination and assistance program to realize technical help, the European Community Commission, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the IMF, and other interstate organizations in individual countries have created a national center for the realization of international technical help for Ukraine.

The management of individual branches of the economy and the social sphere has been improved. There are also plans to strengthen the coordinating role of the Ministry of Transport. There is a need to review the structure of the management of the building complex, and corresponding proposals have been submitted.

In the growing energy crisis, the issue of the safe exploitation of atomic power stations and the development of atomic energy on the basis of modern nuclear technology is becoming more and more acute. Work is already under way to create a state management system for Ukraine's atomic energy and industry. It is envisaged that a state committee on nuclear and radiation safety will be created, as well as a state committee on the exploitation of atomic energy.

Today the issue of the social protection of the population is particularly important, especially for the categories that are poorly provided for such as pensioners, invalids, war and work veterans, and families with many children. It is proposed to create, along with other functions and powers, a Ministry of Social Protection of the Population on the basis of the Ministry of Social Security.

At the same time, a committee on war and work veterans affairs will function under the cabinet of ministers, which will conduct a single state policy on the legal and social protection of this category of citizens.

A Ukrainian state committee on the protection of rights of [word indistinct] consumers has been created. The policy of resolving the problems of social protection for servicemen is being consistently carried out. You know that a decision has been adopted to create an apparatus [words indistinct] on questions of social protection of servicemen and veterans of the Armed Forces in the Crimean Republic, oblasts, and the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol.

In accordance with the new challenges (currently) facing the cabinet of ministers, structural changes within its apparatus as well as changes in the apparatus of the president are taking place.

The leaderships of ministries and departments are being strengthened. A proposal to appoint (Vasyl Vasylovych) Onopenko as minister of justice has been submitted. The Ministry of Industry was headed by Academician (Pavlovsky Mykhaylo Antonych). In the near future the Ukrainian National Information Agency will be strengthened and reformed. People's Deputy (Zinchenko Arsen Leontovych) has been appointed head of the Council on Religious Affairs.

During this time 18 new and qualified specialists have become deputies to leaders of ministries and departments. By taking into account the gained experience of public opinion, all other structures of the government, of the government apparatus and the structure under the president, are being improved. As you can see, the leadership of a whole number of ministries and departments is being systematically renewed, taking into account the issues that concern the people and their fates. I think these and other personnel changes will become a new impulse in the work of the higher elements of executive power. I think the new prime minister will continue to form a government of reformers.

Honorable people's deputies, we have lived for one year. Theory has become practice. What have we seen? The president's scope of work is exceptionally large. The constitution and laws are not coordinated, and there are uncovered areas and contradictions. But it would not be simply unsuitable but dangerous to reexamine the constitution today when there is already discussion of a new one to introduce radical changes and to once again redistribute power. [passage omitted]

Power at the regional level has been divided. This interaction of bodies, the state, and the self-governing and representative order should be improved with the practice which has taken place, based on the Constitution and corresponding laws. We need to determine and dot all the i's. Do we go farther in this direction, or do we attempt to turn back and combine the representative and state power in a single entity or collective organ? Strictly speaking, it is not opportune to resolve this before the adoption of the constitution. Whatever constitution we adopt will have to do so.

I have spoken and speak in support of authoritative representative organs of power, until they are destatized, and a clear definition of self-governing functions. As to the method of realization, that is a very painful question. [passage omitted]

I want to emphasize that the powers of the Supreme Council, the president, and the government should only be constitutional and adopted by two-thirds of the vote. There should be no [word indistinct] or duplication in the current legislation. This issue is fundamental. In no way does this mean that there will be an alienation or shunning of the legislative power from the executive power. [passage omitted: on need for closer cooperation between these two organs of power, differences of

opinion between the two is normal, everybody must work together for good of the state]

There is one more very important issue concerning everybody today. The acute critical phenomenon characteristic of the period of transition to new forms of management has led to a complication in the criminal situation in Ukraine. [passage omitted: on deteriorating criminal situation and lack of appropriate laws]

A standing interdepartmental commission on fighting crime has been set up by the government with the objective of integrating the efforts of all state and public structures to stabilize the criminal situation. The commission has been instructed to prepare and submit for the president's consideration a draft program on organizing the fight against this with a solid estimate on the cost of implementing it. Furthermore, a draft presidential decree on immediate measures to improve the criminal situation in the country as a whole is being prepared. [passage omitted: determined to stop crime, the executive power is waiting impatiently for criminal codes and laws to prevent crime]

Esteemed comrades, here is the last small subject regarding the foreign policy of Ukraine. During this period it has been dedicated to creating optimum conditions for resolving the problems that its people face on the path of establishing democracy, implementing the economic reform, and building its own state. Today we can state that over 120 states of the world have recognized Ukraine as independent, the independent Ukraine. The vast majority of them have established diplomatic relations with us. There is a legal foundation for our integration with the countries of the world in the form of almost 70 bilateral interstate and intergovernment treaties which will regulate cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, technical, ecological, cultural, and other spheres.

Establishing normal, friendly, and mutually beneficial relations with the international community and, first, with our neighbors, is one of the most important factors in guaranteeing our security. Practical steps have been made to implement the Supreme Soviet's policy of Ukraine acquiring nuclear-free status, of reducing the arsenals of conventional arms in Europe. Ukraine does not aspire to having a nuclear button, [words indistinct] to give a guarantee to the world that the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory will not be used by the will of another state. The president now has such means. [passage omitted: on Ukraine's integration into the European political and economic space and new membership in various international organizations]

We have taken some steps forward within the framework of the CIS. The question of the external debt of the former USSR has been settled. Military issues are being resolved and the search for new methods of economic cooperation, a civilized exit from the ruble zone, and the

division of foreign property of the former Union is under way. This process, however, is not proceeding as quickly as we desire.

The issue of the division of the gold reserves and the diamond fund of the former Union is still unresolved, although agreements will be reached in those fields as well. One can say that the meetings of state and government heads within the negotiation forum of the CIS have not been entirely fruitless. They have produced some results.

At the same time, I would like to stress that Ukraine, using the independence act and the referendum of 1 December 1991 as guidance, will not agree to be subordinated to the centralized structures of the CIS, the ideas of creating which are now actively [word indistinct]. [applause]

The future of Ukraine lies not in returning to the old structures but in its equal cooperation with other sovereign states. I cannot but dwell [word indistinct] on relations with our biggest neighbor, Russia. Influenced by anti-Ukrainian speeches by Russian national-chauvinists, some are calling for a break in relations with that state. They forget that until recently it was Russia toward which the vast majority of all our socioeconomic relations had been oriented. It is simply impossible in one stroke, as they say, to break those relations without doing serious harm to the standard of life of the Ukrainian people, the future of our state, and the stability that Ukraine now enjoys. This economic romanticism should be overcome. It must be discarded. Is it possible today to speak seriously of an immediate change of energy sources? Hard currency is involved, and nobody gives concrete credits for oil and gas. [passage omitted: calls for sensibility]

We will continue to base our policy toward Russia on the basis of our historical past, real interests, and today's needs. We must have good-neighborly, equal relations with this state which would serve our mutual interests. We will not agree to anything else. The new interstate Ukrainian-Russian agreement will be based on the principles of sovereign equality, mutual benefit, partnership, and cooperation. Sovereign equality, without any deviations.

Here are a few comments on military construction. Slowly but surely we are moving. As proof, I will note that out of the 110,000-strong officer corps of the Ukrainian Army, there is no one who has not sworn allegiance to its people. Over this period we have set up our armed forces, which we did not have a year ago.

We know the problems that stand in the way of the quick transformation of military formations. They are closely linked with the general problems of building our state. There are limitations on the possibilities for financing programs to reduce the Army and providing for the social protection of officers and their families, as well as difficulties in supplying and operating weapons and machinery. All of these things exist.

Taking care about the future, one should not close his eyes to the fact that the level of our troops' combat readiness is still low. There is insufficient discipline, and the officers corps are positively confused in the face of objective difficulties. The relaxation of control and the responsibility for the state of affairs considerably hinder the strengthening of our Armed Forces. [passage omitted: hopes for effectiveness of new military legislation; criticism of mass media; brings up some ex-patriots poor behavior during world congress of Ukrainians in August and some mass media's criticism of president's actions in those circumstances; concludes with calls for joint work to solve Ukraine's problems]

President Holds Question-and-Answer Session

LD0110070792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0920 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Question-and-answer session with President Leonid Kravchuk and Supreme Soviet deputies, moderated by Chairman Plyushch, at the Supreme Soviet session in Kiev—live]

[Excerpts] [Plyushch] Thank you, Mr. Hnatyshyn. [voice heard in background] No, no, we did not agree on a recess. There was 291 vote [against a recess], so please take your seats. We voted for a procedure whereby we listen to the speech of greetings and then ask questions for half an hour. It is now 1121. We have 30 minutes, Leonid Makarovych, please.

[Kravchuk] Attention, please.

[Plyushch] Microphone no. 1.

[Karpenko] Deputy Karpenko, city of Kiev, editor of VECHIRNIY KYIV newspaper. Esteemed Leonid Makarovych, in your speech today one could hear anxiety about what our press writes. I want to ask you a question in which the anxiety of our press, or at least part of it, about what is being done to the press and around the press, is concentrated. I want to say that recently tendencies to suppress glasnost and criticism in our state can be noticed. I am only giving individual facts. For instance, only newspapers that support the government or are bodies of state structures are subsidized by the government from the state budget. Criminal proceedings have been initiated against two independent newspapers: VECHIRNIY KYIV and NEZAVISIMOST on the basis of articles 125 and 126 of the criminal code; structures of former censorship are preserved and the notorious list has been approved just recently [not further specified]. Finally, there is something you talked about—the statement by UKRINFORM on behalf of the president, about throwing out of Ukraine those foreign guests who criticize our system and our power structures without the right to visit it again. The question is as follows: Leonid Makarovych.... [noise from floor]

[Plyushch] The audience demands that you state your question in definite terms.

[Karpenko] I am stating my question: proceeding from these facts, do you not think, Leonid Makarovych, that an attempt is being made to shut glasnost up and that it serves the purpose of those forces that would like to curtail democratic processes in Ukraine? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] Well, I will start from the end, because it is a pity that you, esteemed Mr. Karpenko, are using words that are not in the statement of the Ukrainian information agency. Expelling those who will criticize was not stated there. What was stated was that appropriate actions would be taken against those who interfere in our internal affairs. I think these are different things, and nobody and nowhere—it is not disseminated that someone wants to increase this—without even reading to the end of the document, many people, by the way, do not read documents at all but just listen to what is convenient for them. So I want to say that it is not diplomats or people accredited that are discussed, but private persons from any country which are discussed, be it from Russia, Canada, or Germany or Poland. If these private persons visit Ukraine and engage in political activities—and they do this—news conferences are called without the authorities' knowledge, hints are made on territorial issues, calls for a referendum and the rest of it—well, tell me, is there a country in the world that would tolerate this, or do you want to make Ukraine a territory where there are no limits for anything? [applause]

This is what is discussed, but everyone took one phrase about those who will criticize—you tell me, has anyone suffered who criticized the president or anything? I stated officially that I have no grudge against those who criticize. However, it is the word of responsibility [as heard], ethics, and honor of an editor to publish or not to publish material where there is a rude insult, not only to the president, but also to everyone else. [uproar from floor] And you want very much to switch the concepts. [passage omitted]

However, I would like again to take the opportunity of being at the rostrum so that everyone can hear about the stand of the state, which protects its national interests against anyone—both people like Zhirinovskiy and others who come to Ukraine and want to run the show here, you see. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk reads written question] Has your stand as regards a referendum for dissolution of the Parliament changed over the last several days? No, it has not changed. I do not think that this referendum would be useful, I do not think so. I believe—and I said this then and I say this now—that the Supreme Council has to fulfill its important tasks and pass a decision on self-dissolution. This will be an honor to the Parliament. To make it happen by force—the same amount of time will be spent and the result cannot be as expected.

[Plyushch] Microphone number three please.

[Kendzyor] I am Yaroslav Kendzyor from Sokal, Lvov Oblast. Esteemed Leonid Makarovych, it seems today

that we stand and are witnesses to the outcome that has been hanging over us for a long time already, that is, the issue of the prime minister's resignation. This issue has been ripening in a very serious way and, finally, today it has been settled. This small picket, which is standing in front of the Supreme Council today, has the goal of defending our prime minister and the Cabinet of Ministers, and one can see from the picket's banners which political forces defend both the prime minister and the entire cabinet.

The question is as follows: everything became clear on what political forces stand behind our Cabinet of Ministers. Why did we keep putting it off until society was ready to explode, in regards to the resignation of our government? It is only today, when we have dug such a hole of crisis from which, as one of our deputies said figuratively, one can see little sky from this hole, we have finally settled this issue.

Second, a brief question: yesterday, a very serious interview with Ivan Stanovych Plyushch, the chairman of the Supreme Council, was published in HOLOS UKRAYINY. In this interview there are many, many critical remarks, so to speak, about the presidential structure of power. Do you agree with those—well, I would not say reproaches—but with some critical remarks in regards to the presidential structure of power and in regards to the Duma [council] attached to the president?

[Kravchuk] Esteemed Mr. Kendzyor, I am always glad to communicate with you, because your questions are always difficult and they make it possible to take part in a discussion in an (?adequate) way. Only I would not like us to divide those picketers into those who are good and those who are bad. I would not like those people who came—miners and others—to be some sort of a second-class group that we do not like if they defend the government. Second, I understand they did not come to defend. Their mottos and everything printed there say that there should be accord, peace, that economic reforms should go on and that we should build our state. What is bad about that? Generally, if one speaks frankly, I do not think that we must push anyone aside if he comes from another region. Let us not do that.

As far as the interview with by Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch is concerned, you understand, I would not like to use the rostrum of the Supreme Council for arguing with the chairman of the Supreme Council. It is not correct, and I do not want to resort to that.

Although Ivan Stepanovych has the right to his own point of view, I have my point of view, but the constitution is the only law [pravo]. One has to look in it and decide on how it is stated there. The personal point of view, be it that of the president or the chairman of the Supreme Council.... [changes thought] It is better that they settle it between themselves. I regret that we brought this issue out for popular discussion. I would not want to do this. However, it has happened. I will not

answer these questions, but I will act according to the constitution and only according to the constitution.

[Plyushch] Here is a written question, Leonid Makarovych.

[Kravchuk] There is this question here; I have already talked about this. Oh, no, this has not come up yet. [reading question] What was in the latest message from President Yeltsin to heads of the CIS states?

I received such a message yesterday. I did not bring it with me; it is not classified, but I will repeat it from memory: Boris Nikolayevich asked the heads of state to think about the following before the Bishkek meeting: there is the CIS and there are different states in the CIS, those inclined to a larger degree of integration and those not inclined to deeper integration. For instance, the Defense Alliance was created. We could not become a member because according to our concept we are not part of any bloc. We did not become that. Maybe there is a group of states that will create another, well, organization—I cannot find the word—some structure within the framework of the CIS.

So what is our attitude? Well, I already said when answering the question, and I want to say once again, that this issue is a matter of principle for us. You remember that, in Belovezhskaya Pushcha and then in Alma-Ata, agreements we wrote down and one thing could be found everywhere: first, the CIS is not a state, the CIS is not a subject of law and cannot create any interstate structures for general administration. This was approved by the Supreme Council. Didn't we approve and ratify it? We did. Now then, all other moves and actions are simply groundless. I will be strictly fulfilling what we agreed upon, and I will not do anything. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I want to emphasize: Ukraine will follow the course it has defined. However, bilateral relations, relations with Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the others—and settling the issues that we have in common and have their roots as far back as in the former USSR—we must settle, and we can settle them only within the framework of the CIS. [passage omitted]

[Plyushch] Microphone number three.

[Chernenko] I am Chernenko from Gorlovka. Esteemed Leonid Makarovych, I have the following question to you: there are now political parties and forces in the society and here in the parliament, that is, the issue of holding the referendum and elections to the parliament ahead of time is being spread and exaggerated. You, in your speech, which is fairly extensive, talked about consolidation and political stability—I agree with you here completely, and I want to say that new elections to the parliament, with those tiny parties and with those leaders whom no one knows—this will bring additional chaos and instability into Ukraine with all the consequences. I would like to know your point of view on the fate of the parliament, because many interpretations,

including your own statements, appear in the press and on television. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] Well, this question has been put to me several times—both the first and the second one. I will try to answer it calmly, so to speak, if I can. So the first one: I think the parliament's fate should be decided by the parliament itself. This makes the most sense.

But nobody is hurting the parliament more than the parliament itself. Nobody, believe me—I meet with people. The process of creating a law often turns into political battles. People cannot bear this anymore, and this is an illusion that people rush to their television sets. If the parliament now changes its attitude and starts creating laws—this depends not only on the leaders but on all of us, believe me—it will gain authority straight away, straight away. I do not want the parliament dissolved, because I think while it still exists it can still do something. It can pass laws on the constitution and on elections—who can do this, who can tell me? However, it is necessary for the parliament not to assume duties that it does not need to bear, that is, executive functions. No, it is not needed. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk, reading written question] Socialist deputies made an inquiry of all oblast procurators and received the answer that the Communist Party's participation in anti-constitution actions was not confirmed anywhere. Is it not time to abolish the anti-constitutional decision of the presidium on banning the party?

Well, let us do it this way, I, as far as I remember.... [changes thought] Ivan Stepanovych, I do not recollect. It seems to me that this issue has already been submitted to the Supreme Council. No? Well, I rely on my memory. It seems like something has been submitted. However, let us do it this way. If there is some problem in society, even if a 1,000 people are behind this problem and it is aggravating, it has to be settled in a competent and sensible way. This is my position—in a competent and sensible way. Now let us decide, even if the Supreme Council makes the decision, will it be lawful? They say at the constitutional court in Russia that this should be done by the constitutional court. [noise from floor]

I say once again, if you think that the presidium has made an unlawful decision and if the Supreme Council approves it, it will also be unlawful from the point of view of the law. So why should one decision be duplicated? I propose to hand this matter over to the constitutional court. [passage omitted]

[Plyushch] Well, Leonid Makarovych, we thank you for answers that are rich in substance. We will now take a 30-minute recess.

Observers Ponder Possible Fokin Replacements

OW0110023892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk said at the republic's parliamentary session Wednesday [30 September] that Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin had sent in his resignation.

Observers in Kiev believe that the most probable winner in the elections of the head of the government is Valentyn Symonenko who was nominated as first vice-premier and economics minister of the republic three months ago. Before this nomination the 52-year-old Symonenko served as chairman of the Odessa city council and executive committee, and starting for last March - as presidential representative in the Odessa region. He was one of the initiators of giving Odessa the status of free economic zone. In general, Symonenko is known as supporter of the command administrative system. However, greater flexibility compared to the previous premier Vitold Fokin will enable him to get backing not only of the old nomenklatura, but also the Ukrainian national democrats. Some of them approved Symonenko's nomination as vice-premier instead of the liberal market supporter Vladimir Lanovoy.

According to the Ukrainian Constitution, only the president can submit the candidacy for the post of the prime minister to the parliament.

It is not ruled out that the RUKH [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroika] opposition movement will try to offer its candidates for the post of the premier to Leonid Kravchuk, among them chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic reform Vladimir Pilipchuk, former leader of the major opposition faction "Narodna Rada" academician Igor Yukhnovsky and former Soviet people's deputy Vladimir Chernyak.

The RUKH and the "New Ukraine" Liberal Movement factions may join their efforts in the struggle for the post of the prime minister. Then one of the possible candidates is also chairman of the republic's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Vasily Yevtukhov. Last summer one of the RUKH leaders Les Tanyuk called Yevtukhov a candidate for the post of the prime minister, who is acceptable both to the right and the left. Yevtukhov is also one of the leaders of the "New Ukraine" Liberal Movement.

It is not ruled out that the post of the prime minister will be offered to one of the directors of major enterprises, for example, Vladimir Slednev. His candidacy was already put forward by Premier Leonid Kravchuk in the fall of 1990. Slednev is currently supported by the right-wing Ukrainian Republican Party.

Deputy Premier Declines Comment

LD0110101592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0940
GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shwartsman]

[Text] Odessa October 1 TASS—Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Symonenko declined to comment on his possible appointment as prime minister to replace Vitold Fokin who resigned from the post.

Speaking to TASS on Thursday [1 October] he refused to either confirm or deny the possibility.

Symonenko said Ukrainian Government should attribute strategic role to market reforms, while the state sector should play a stabilising role.

Cabinet, Parliament Disagree on Economic Policy

PM3010163592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25
Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Tsikora report: "Ukraine: State Duma and Cabinet of Ministers Take Different Views of Bright Tomorrow"]

[Text] Kiev—The two most important subdivisions of presidential power—the Cabinet of Ministers and the State Duma in the guise of its Collegium for Questions of Economic Policy—have disagreed in their assessments of the merits of the action plan to deepen economic reform in Ukraine.

Naturally, the plan of specific actions was prepared by the government. The cabinet is to submit it to the Supreme Soviet next week. A detailed list of actions was examined at a special enlarged session of the Cabinet of Ministers. Journalists were invited only to its opening, and so newspapermen do not possess extensive information on the measures proposed by the government in the sphere of the economy.

Just a few fundamental positions, which were debated, are known. The point that the government does not intend to abandon tough administrative-edict methods of management, even in the future, may be considered the most important. In the present situation, in its opinion, other methods cannot guarantee the necessary effect, as privatization has not been carried out in the republic and there is simply nowhere for market relations to manifest themselves.

Ukrainian Prime Minister V. Fokin made it clear that a combination of tough methods and economic methods can revive the republic's economy and halt the escalation of crisis phenomena. The head of the cabinet declared for all to hear that he believes in the success of the plan that has been drawn up and is ready, along with all members of the government, to assume all responsibility for its realization.

Economists on the president's apparatus had a different opinion of the government's anticrisis measures. V. Pinzenik, deputy chairman of the State Duma Collegium for Questions of Economic Policy, who addressed the same cabinet session, described the concept of the government's action plan as erroneous and dangerous for

Ukraine. He called it a departure from the present economic and political course and a return to edict-administrative methods.

V. Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, who now heads a temporary parliamentary commission to examine a package of economic reform issues, also spoke critically of the Ukrainian Government's plan at a meeting with Netherlands parliamentarians.

The Cabinet of Ministers still adopted its draft plan as a basis, although it did decide to introduce into it, a number of suggestions made at the session. The president will now have to delve into the essence of the disagreements between specialists of the State Duma and the Cabinet of Ministers.

Human Error Halts Nuclear Plant Unit

AU0110104592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Sep 92 p 1

[Information issued by State Committee for Atomic Supervision: "Safety Regulations Violated"]

[Text] On 21 September, when the first energy unit of the South Ukrainian Atomic Electric Power Plant was being loaded after repairs, the automatic emergency protection device halted the reactor because a fault in the measuring systems was detected.

The plant's workers had failed to observe the requirements for the safe maintenance of the reactor during its halting—the lowering of pressure in the steam generators and of the water level in the volume compensator [kompensator obyema].

There were no radiation leakages, nor increased exposure of the personnel to radiation, or damage to the equipment.

In accordance with a tentative assessment, this situation may be categorized as a second-level incident on the international scale that gives ratings of incidents at atomic electric power plants in terms of the danger they present.

On 25 September, the energy unit was put into operation.

Fire Extinguished During Chernobyl Repairs

AU3009195292 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Sep 92 p 3

[Statement issued by State Committee for Atomic Supervision: "The Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Plant: Fire Was Prevented"]

[Text] Quite recently, workers of the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Plant who inspected the premises of the third unit that has been under repairs for a long time, noticed that the scaffolding in one of the rooms had

caught fire. The fire had not yet spread, and the workers managed to put it out on their own. Firemen were not called.

It is believed that the fire started because of the negligence on the part of repair workers who did some welding prior to the inspection.

Let us remind you that the first unit of the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Plant is also under repairs. The second unit is being prepared for the removal from exploitation.

Cabinet Allows Financial Aid for Crimean Tatars

AU3009144092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has allowed the Council of Ministers of the Crimean Republic to provide financial assistance totalling up to 2.1 billion rubles for families of those Crimean Tatars who returned to the Crimean Republic for permanent residence and are building their own housing. By way of exception, this assistance may be given from the state budget.

Crimean Parliament Head on Independence Vote

OW3009022792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nikolay Bagrov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, has asserted that "right now I am more convinced than I was yesterday that a referendum on independence would cause harm and would begin a quarrel among the people of the autonomous republic." Bagrov remarked at a Tuesday [29 September] press conference in Simferopol that he did not consider it necessary again to raise the question of holding a referendum. According to the Crimean chairman, the introduction of the constitution of Crimea at a recent session of the Crimean parliament in accordance with the Ukrainian constitution, will cause relations between Simferopol and Kiev to improve.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet offered sharp criticism of the activities of the Republican Movement of Crimea (RDK) and called for its dismissal. Bagrov remarked that "the path taken by this movement is not that of constructive opposition." He also brushed off the statements of the leaders of the RDK regarding the alleged oppression of the Russian-speaking population of the Crimea, saying that he knows of no such problem.

According to Bagrov, after the solving of the problem of delimiting authority between Crimea and Ukraine, it will be necessary to transfer attention to finding a solution to economic problems. By all appearances, he advised, Crimea would soon be establishing several free economic zones with taxation privileges designed to attract foreign investment.

Socialist Leader Wants Economic Policy Changes

OW0110014292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party Aleksandr Moroz has been quoted as describing the Ukrainian government's economic policy as an exercise in mockery of the people and the very essence of economic reform. He was speaking on Wednesday [30 September] at a Supreme Council session in Kiev.

Moroz remarked that the current policies accentuate the property stratification among the population. The leader of the Socialist Party held the Ukrainian president responsible for this. Moroz said that Leonid Kravchuk "had spent virtually a year organising the governmental team, but now, seeing the hopelessness of this government, has sent its prime minister into esteemed retirement." Moroz requested the Ukrainian Supreme Council to consider the Socialist Party's programme together with the anti-crisis programmes of other parties.

In Moroz's opinion, changes must be made to the current economic reform policy: a strict state line must be adopted with a central control of the economic mechanism.

Security Council Discusses Immunobiological Issues

AU3009175592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
29 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the National Security Council"]

[Text] On 25 September, the meeting of Ukraine's National Security Council discussed the question "On the Extreme Situation That Has Taken Shape in the

Provision With Immunobiological Preparations and on the Imminent Spread of Infectious Diseases in Ukraine."

A broad circle of issues was discussed at the meeting, including the need to resolve the problem of drinking water, to consider the production of medicines as one of the priority trends in the state activity, and to officially decide whether the Ukrainian National Red Cross Committee is joining the international association.

Leaders of central organs of state power and leading scientists took part in the meeting chaired by Ukraine's president L.M. Kravchuk.

National Democratic Forces Hold Congress

LD3009030792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in
Ukrainian 2200 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] The extended session of the Council of the Congress of National Democratic Forces of Ukraine opened in Kiev. Larysa Skoryk, people's deputy of Ukraine, made a speech in which the most important political processes taking place on the territory of our state were examined.

Doctor of Economics Stanislav Hubar and Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, vice president of the Academy of Technological Sciences, gave a detailed analysis of the economic situation. Leaders of the Congress of National Democratic Forces proposed their own vision of causes for the economic crisis in Ukraine.

Bohdan Ternopil'skyy, the chairman of the Secretariat of the Congress, said they had a critical attitude toward the principal direction for overcoming the totalitarian past, which was proposed by economists of the public and political association Nova Ukrayina [New Ukraine]. The National Democrats believe that the elimination of the consequences of Ukraine's colonial past is not less important. Bohdan Ternopil'skyy stressed the Congress's readiness to specifically propose its own special program for Ukraine's emergence from the economic crisis.

Belarus

Security Council Adopts Military Doctrine Draft
OW3009181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their Wednesday [30 September] session, the Belarusian National Security Council presided by the chairman of the republic's Supreme Council, Stanislav Shushkevich, adopted the draft of the Belarusian military doctrine. According to the draft, Belarus will adopt a defensive posture, considering the republic has stated its aspiration for a non-nuclear status and neutrality.

Interfax has learned from the sources close to the inner circles of the chairman of the Belarusian parliament that the doctrine would be presented for the authorization by the next session of the republic's Supreme Council which is due to begin its work October 20.

Kebich Proposes Barter Deal for Tyumen Oil
OW0110012092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax has been informed by sources close to the Belarusian government that Cabinet Leader Vyacheslav Kebich has proposed during a telephone conversation with acting Russian premier Yegor Gaydar sending tractors, lorries and consignments of meat to Tyumen region in payment for oil. The republic's government also considers road, hospital and school construction a possible means of payment for oil supplies from Russia.

The search for new ways of paying for energy supplies from Russia has been influenced by Russia's intention to double the cost of oil, in the opinion of Belarusian governmental experts.

The Interfax sources in the Minsk government claimed that Kebich and Gaydar had also "exchanged opinions on the possible introduction of a national currency in Ukraine from October 1st". (Sources in Ukraine have not yet confirmed the authenticity of this information-IF [INTERFAX]). Belarusian cabinet experts have claimed that Gaydar has informed Kebich of the intention of the Russian leadership to put a new monetary unit into circulation - the Russian Ruble.

Moldova

2d Group of Russian Troops Withdrawing to Siberia

OW3009181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Preparations have been completed in Chisinau to withdraw the 300th Russian landing regiment located there. Military sources in the Moldovan capital report that a second echelon is being organized to send technical equipment and the regiment's personnel to their new place of deployment in the capitol of Khakasiya (a republic in the Russian Federation in southeastern Siberia), Abakan. The first echelon has already arrived there. In accordance with an agreement between Russia and Moldova, ammunition and about 50% of the regiment's equipment will be given to the Moldovan national army.

The second echelon will leave Moldova by October 16, and on October 26 the personnel and banner of the 300th regiment will be sent by military transport plane to Abakan.

Civil Defense General Staff Reports on Refugees

AU2509195392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1452 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 25/9/1992—In the period of the armed conflict in the Dniesterian region 51,484, persons, of which more than half children, took refuge, MOLDOVA-PRES reports, quoting the General Staff of Civil Defense of the Republic of Moldova. So far, most of them have returned home. According to the same source, 2,307 persons, of which 1,199 adults and 1,108 children, including 573 preschoolers, are still refugees.

Referring to the reasons why they do not return to their native place, 617 people say their houses and flats were deteriorated and 1,099 invoke political reasons, MOLDOVA-PRES shows.

Combatants' Congress Elects Leadership

AU2709185792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1810
GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 27/9/1992—The proceedings of the first congress of the combatants' movements of Moldova ended in Causeni on September 27. According to MOLDOVA PRES, the president of the movement is Ion Lescenco and its vice-presidents are Colonel Alexandru Gorgan, representing the national army, Captain Constantin Hariton, representing the police, and Semion Cuciuc, representing the volunteers.

On Sunday [27 September] the proceedings were attended by Andrei Sangheli, prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, and other officials, MOLDOVA PRES reports.

Ministry Denies Holding Afghan POW's Captive

*AU3009160492 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in
Romanian 2100 GMT 29 Sep 92*

[Relayed via Iasi]

[Text] One of the news items broadcast on 28 September 1992 by ITAR-TASS press agency quoted a press item published by the daily HINDUSTAN TIMES referring

to the plight of the prisoners of war on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The daily relied on a statement made by the Afghan president, containing allegations about the existence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova of a number of Afghan prisoners of war.

The Foreign Ministry of Moldova states that there have never been, and there are no Afghan prisoners of war on the territory of the republic.

Kazakhstan**Nazarbayev Makes Strong Impression in Paris**

PM3009160592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26
Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Nazarbayev Offers French Businessmen Favorable Terms for Capital Investment"]

[Text] Paris—The political stability of the country, which has managed to avoid ethnic conflicts, its enormous natural resources, the economic realism of its leaders, and, finally, the personality of President Nazarbayev himself are Kazakhstan's trump cards today, in the opinion of French business circles. If the country plays its hand skillfully, it has a very good chance of attracting foreign investment.

Judging by businessmen's reaction, the Kazakhstan president, who is accompanied by a 50-strong trade and industry delegation, made a strong impression with his analysis of the situation in the republic, his understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Kazakh economy, his pragmatism and frankness, and, most importantly, his clear idea of what French partners could give Kazakhstan and the terms on which this would operate.

We have no intention of selling off our natural resources, Nazarbayev stated, and we will trade not oil, but its refined products; not copper but cable. We intend to double our exports in two to three years.

Speaking about the difficulties which hamper the development of ties, Nazarbayev highlighted legislation, which does not yet match up to what Western partners would like, the one-sided raw-materials thrust of the economy, and the deficiencies of the tax system. "We will not be able to solve our problems quickly without foreign investment," the president acknowledged.

He proposed to entrepreneurs that industry based on local raw materials be set up, the processing of agricultural produce organized, the manufacture of hi-tech products be set up, and free enterprise zones created with the assistance of the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "We will give you more favorable terms than those you enjoy in other countries," the Kazakhstan leader promised.

After the signing of a Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Understanding by Presidents Mitterrand and Nazarbayev on 30 September the two countries concluded an intergovernmental agreement on mutual protection of investments. An agreement between the Foreign Trade Bank of Kazakhstan and Credit Commercial de France, a bank which heads a consortium of Western companies and which will be engaged in the privatization of several thousand enterprises in Russia, was another result of the visit.

Commentary on Results of Nazarbayev Trip

PM0110093592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in
Russian 29 Sep 92 p 2

[Commentary by Pavel Shinkarenko: "Kazakhstan's 'Window' on Europe"]

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's first ever state visit to Germany and France has come to an end.

Of course, it is too early to give the definitive results of the meetings with the heads of West European states and governments, the leaders of political parties, and businessmen. However, even a fleeting glance at the list of people who received the guest from Alma-Ata and the list of joint documents adopted shows that Kazakhstan's leader succeeded in "carving out" a broad "window" into West Europe. Without enumerating all the agreements—that would take up a lot of space—I will give what I consider to be the main ones. A joint statement was signed in Bonn on the fundamentals of relations between the two states, along with two treaties—on the development of wide-ranging cooperation in the economy, industry, science, and technology and on the provision of incentives for and mutual protection of capital investments. In France the Paris Charter for the new Europe and a bilateral treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding were signed.

The success of Nursultan Nazarbayev's West European mission is, I think, determined by several factors. The guest from Alma-Ata showed his negotiating partners that given the current stable political and socioeconomic situation in the republic Kazakhstan, will escape from its economic difficulties faster than the other former Soviet republics. Especially with the aid of foreign investments promising investors a rapid profit. There are rich natural resources and an undeveloped market for Western goods. The glowing prospects and promises of rapid commercial success that Western Europeans heard from the prestigious new-wave politician will undoubtedly not go unnoticed.

Bonn was particularly interested in these projects. More than 1 million "Soviet" Germans live in Kazakhstan today, many of them wanting to return to the FRG, to their historic homeland. However, it would be imprudent to stimulate such an influx when the German Government has still not dealt with the problems of the Eastern Laender. No politician would venture to do that. It is easier to support potential compatriots in far-off Kazakhstan than to encounter them looking for housing and work on your own streets.

A start has already been made on extensive cooperation. Germany and its Western partners, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said, are prepared to offer Kazakhstan all manner of support, aid in self-help, so to speak. Not least by means of credit guarantees. A major petroleum contract has been concluded with France's Elf-Aquitaine. Dozens of other firms have embarked on work in the light and

processing industries. Kazakhstan is also counting on Western capital participating in reorganizing banking and in privatization, military development, space, and ensuring the safety of nuclear electric power stations. I think that these hopes are based on the firm foundation of mutual interest.

Visiting Finnish President Meets Leaders

OW0110011092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan can offer a vast field for business operations by Finnish entrepreneurs, president Nazarbayev said at the ceremony of signing a package of agreements between his country and Finland coming as part of a formal visit to Kazakhstan by the president of Finland, Mauno Koivisto. Nazarbayev singled out the light industry, farming and mining as the possible areas of cooperation in manufacturing high-quality consumer goods both for Kazakhstan and Finland. Other areas include the processing of leather, cotton and wool, and modernisation of the light and pulp-and-paper industries.

Although the Finnish president was less optimistic about the prospects of investment in the Kazakh economy, he said Finland could assist in the transfer of technological and commercial information.

Koivisto hailed Kazakhstan's peace effort in Central Asia saying Alma-Ata could be seen as playing the same role as Helsinki in Europe.

For his part, Nazarbayev outlined his own vision of European-style security and cooperation mechanisms in Asia. He spoke of active contacts being under way between Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Kazakhstan. In his view, Japan, Korea, China and Russia must also join the process. The Kazakh leader said the idea was supported by the UN secretary general, Dr Butrus-Ghali. The creation of a CSCE-style political organisation in Asia can help defuse tension in the continent and around Tajikistan, Nazarbayev said adding he intended to raise the issue at an Asian summit in Istanbul which he is due to visit on October 30.

Although the conflict in Tajikistan is not on the agenda of a forthcoming CIS summit in Bishkek, it will certainly come under discussion, the Kazakh leader said. Russia and Uzbekistan are both active in trying to resolve the armed confrontation there.

Government Plans To Build More Oil Refineries

PM0110085192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Yermeyev under the rubric: "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies": "Kazakh Prime Minister Proposes Ending Oil Dependence on Russia"]

[Text] "We extract our own oil but are forced to import gasoline from Russia. This dependence must be ended."

This was stated by Sergey Tereshchenko, head of the Kazakh Government, during a working tour of East Kazakhstan. According to him, two facilities to refine 6 million tonnes of oil must be constructed at the Pavlodar Oil Refinery within a year. The republic will find the resources for this.

Nazarbayev Addresses Closing of Kazakh Conference

LD3009220392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] A special closing ceremony attended by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was the main event of the first ever World Conference of Kazakhs in Alma-Ata.

President Nazarbayev said that now that Kazakhstan had gained statehood Kazakh people around the world receive the opportunity to restore the bonds with the land of their ancestors, visit it, or probably to settle there.

The conference decided to establish a world society of ethnic Kazakhs. President Nursultan Nazarbayev has been elected its chairman. In Alma-Ata a world Kazakh center will open.

Radioactive Cesium Stolen From Oil Refinery

PM3009155192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev: "Cesium Container Stolen"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—A container of cesium-137 radioactive nucleid [nukleid] has been stolen by persons unknown from the Guryev Oil Refinery in Atyrau Oblast.

By all accounts the perpetrators were well-prepared and equipped, at least, with a mobile crane—the 100-kg container was stolen from a specially equipped shaft covered by two massive metal plates. The militia is conducting an active, but so far unsuccessful, search. According to some suppositions the lethal source of radiation with a dose rate of around 10 roentgens per hour was stolen for sale abroad, according to others because of the lead casing, which is useful for making small shot or sinkers.

Kyrgyzstan**Vice President Says 300 Troops on Afghan Border***PM0110085992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Report by Aleksandr Ryabushkin: "Kyrgyzstan Extends Helping Hand to Neighbors"]

[Text] Bishkek—Kyrgyzstan is prepared to be an intermediary in settling the armed conflict in Tajikistan and intends to assist in the holding of talks among the various interested sides involved in the confrontation in Bishkek 9 October.

A small delegation headed by Kyrgyz Vice President Feliks Kulov recently visited the neighbors on a peace-making mission. It delivered humanitarian aid freight for Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube oblasts and met with the republic's leadership, with leaders of various parties and movements, and with clergy.

F. Kulov said in conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent that the situation in Tajikistan is complex and that more active and effective CIS assistance is required in resolving the conflict, whose consequences might affect not only neighboring states. Kyrgyzstan has placed 300 soldiers at the disposal of the Russian border troops guarding the border with Afghanistan, and three of them have already received injuries.

Concerning bilateral relations, the vice president pointed out that, however hard things may be for Kyrgyzstan itself (floods, devastating earthquakes), it will do everything possible to give assistance and support to the friendly people.

Tajikistan**Roadblocks Set Up on Approaches to Dushanbe***OW3009174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tajik National Security Committee is, together with the Interior Ministry, enforcing strict control of the approaches to Dushanbe, according to Security Council representative Said Rajabov. He said that road-checks were a "necessary and temporary measure" brought about by the tense social and political situation. All vehicles are being checked in order to stop arms and ammunition from being brought into the capital.

Radjabov also said that on Tuesday [29 September] in the Kurgan-Tyube region, one of the warring sides seized the regional security committee headquarters where arms were being stored. Fortunately, none of the security committee's officials were injured.

According to security council information, the city of Kurgan-Tyube itself has been "virtually reduced to

ruins" during the course of the fighting which has been taking place there: administrative buildings in the centre have been destroyed, as have cotton-oil and cotton processing factories.

3 out of 4 tanks which had been stolen from a Russian tank unit in Kurgan-Tyube have been destroyed at the orders of the commander of a Russian division, General Mukhriddin Ashurov. The fourth tank is in the settlement of Kalininabad, according to security committee sources.

Rajabov also said that another southern region—the Kulyab—"had been almost isolated": 3 bridges carrying arterial roads to Dushanbe have been ruptured. Kulyab can now be reached only by air.

Women Refugees Protest Outside Supreme Council*OW0110013492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Around 500 female refugees from Kurgan-Tyube began a demonstration outside the Tajik Supreme Council building in Dushanbe on Wednesday [30 September]. They are appealing for a Womens Republican Council to be formed and are demanding that the government take "strict measures to halt the armed conflict in Southern Tajikistan". The demonstrators consider that the conflict could start a civil war throughout the whole republic.

The demonstrators are demanding the "prompt withdrawal" of Russian troops from Tajikistan, since they were not helping matters. Negotiations between representatives of the demonstrators and the temporary Russian charge d'affairs in Tajikistan are currently taking place in Dushanbe.

Iskandarov Addresses Rally*LD3009120192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Text] There was a mass rally outside the Supreme Soviet this morning. It was attended mainly by women from areas around Dushanbe. They (?explained) the purpose of their presence as being to bring all the efforts of the republic's leadership to bear to bring about an immediate end to the fratricidal war.

Addressing those at the rally, acting deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet [name indistinct] and Iskandarov, acting president of the republic, said that everything possible is being done to protect the civilian population and explained why Russian Armed Forces came to our republic. He also talked about settling the (?economic) crisis. (?Those at the rally) adopted a kind of appeal and called on all women of the republic to show solidarity and unity.

Reporter Assesses Seriousness of Situation

PM3009111792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 29 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Trouble Spot: Will Tajikistan Become Another Afghanistan?"]

[Text] There is little to compare in terms of ferocity with recent events in Tajikistan, which are threatening to develop into a bloody conflict and are necessitating a fresh evaluation of events in the republic over the last four or five years. Without claiming to provide a full analysis, I will try to give my own assessment of what is happening, having seen a great deal in the last few years both in Dushanbe and in Kurgan-Tyube and pondered all my discussions and meetings in Tajikistan during tours of duty there this year.

The confusion, not to say panic, among those who personified authority for many years enabled other social forces to make their presence felt in the late eighties. These forces would like to win a leading position in society to spite the nomenklatura "elite." This group has now been dubbed the anti-Nabiyev opposition. However, these people made themselves felt, let me stress this once more, far earlier. Kakhor Makhkamov, who was at the helm at the time—an undoubtedly capable man—tried to counter his potential rivals with a clear, forward-looking program for Tajikistan's transition to the path of progressive reform. However....

The republic's leadership still preferred to avoid direct discussions with their political opponents who had unexpectedly grown bold, squared their shoulders, and raised their voices. Makhkamov's entourage made no effort to talk with the people either—overtly, rather than on paper, as they had been accustomed to do in the past.

So the opposition was clearly "lucky" when for many years, the authorities failed to make themselves felt as a force capable of taking the republic down the path of democratic renewal. It was very convenient to subject the party and government elite, always "out of touch with the people," to devastating criticism, presenting them as a relic of the totalitarian system. Naturally, while calling for the removal of the party nomenklatura from power. This was accepted by society, at any rate by its active section.

At first, I think, it was hard—even for well informed citizens—to grasp who was actually clearing the way so they could occupy the captain's bridge on the ship of the republic. It is only now perhaps, that society is beginning to see and realize the significance of the views held by the Islamists hiding behind democratic slogans. As you know, the faithful represent the overwhelming majority in Tajikistan. Among them you often encounter people who are sincerely convinced that the moral values in the Koran and the whole Muslim religion not only do not run counter to democratic renewal, but even promote it.

However, I think that now, tracing their experiences and sufferings over the last few years and the whole chain of events reflecting the history of the opposition's struggle with the government, these believers who fought ardently for the party nomenklatura to be ousted from power are feeling confused at least.

With the appearance of weapons in the hands of the opposition and following the pogroms, arson attacks, and looting of stores during the events of February 1990 in Dushanbe, many people became aware that the campaign for a change of government was by no means being waged by the methods that the leaders of the Islamic Revival Party [IRP] and the "Rastokhez" people's movement proclaimed and are still proclaiming.

Even back then, the following question was raised timidly: Have we recognized these people as our leaders, have we entrusted our future to these new political formations? However, there was no one else, and the inability of the existing leadership to conduct progressive transformations became increasingly obvious with the coming to power of Rakhman Nabiyev. Tajikistan acquired a president, but his entourage remained the same. So the opposition still had an opportunity to parade the government's vain attempts to extricate the republic from the quagmire of political and economic disorder. The abscess soon came to a head, so to speak.... Nabiyev was forced to resign.

However, in principle, the president's resignation resolved nothing. Recently, when the saber-rattling has developed into active use of weapons, field commanders vying with one another in terms of brutality have begun to overshadow the leaders of parties and movements. These field commanders included both supporters of the former president and his adversaries.

I spoke to some field commanders during my recent trip to Tajikistan. The position is this. Today—evidently having tasted the first victories—they are no longer hiding the fact that they realize that anyone who has an assault rifle can dictate his will....

I talked with Mukhammadsharif Khimmatzoda, chairman of the IRP. He told me that it is every true Muslim's dream for Islam to be recognized as the state religion and all the republic's citizens to live by the laws of Islam. It was emphasized here that an Islamic state in Tajikistan should emerge by nonviolent means.

Shodmon Yusuf is chairman of the Tajik Democratic Party. I also met with him. He admitted that the members of the party he leads held no weapons until the events of this May. However, according to Yusuf, they wanted—and still want now—to act within the framework of the law. However, it seemed to me that it was no accident that Shodmon Yusuf noted that corrupt people in Kulyab, Kurgan-Tyube, and other regions of the republic will not leave their leadership posts on their own accord.

So will they have to be evicted forcibly? However, that is not constitutional. It is already obvious that the anti-Nabiyev opposition has begun to work out a strong-arm scenario. It itself may leave.... the political arena. Just like that.

In my view, war is the root of the main factor taking Nabiyev's opponents away from their longed-for goal rather than bringing them closer to it. Armed struggle has made it necessary to recruit not academics, entrepreneurs, and industrialists, but lads capable of flexing their muscles and showing their skill in handling weapons. I am afraid that the armed detachments may soon prove uncontrollable. A war is already under way in some regions.

So it will be difficult to unravel the Tajik knot, already soaked in human blood. Yet the mass of the people in the republic by no means expected this development of events. No one wants another Afghanistan. However, it will come to pass unless Tajikistan's CIS partners intervene.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Urges Treaty With Russia; Awards Created

*OW0110013692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1836 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Niyazov speaking in parliament on Wednesday [30 September] called for the ratification of the two agreements with Russia including the friendship treaty and cooperation agreement which provides for the creation of the country's own army. He also spoke of being informed that the Russian parliament is due to ratify the two documents on October 8 and 9.

Niyazov said Turkmenistan was viewing its relations with Russia as being of specific importance.

He also spoke of planning to sign a decree on Wednesday on raising the ceiling of minimal pay, pensions, student grants, and special benefits to the population.

The minimal monthly pay is to go up to Rbl 1,600 [rubles] from October 1, and Niyazov said that an extra Rbl 13.5 bln [billion] needed to enforce the measure before the year-end was now available.

Pensions and grants are also to rise to Rbl 1,600 a month, and government benefits to large families are to be increased which, Niyazov says, requires for an extra Rbl 28 bln to be raised until the end of the year.

The parliament approved a list of national awards, will be able including the title of the Hero of Turkmenistan

(the top award), the Order of the President's Star, and two medals - for Gallantry and Bravery.

The parliament voted unanimously for conferring the country's first Hero title on president Niyazov.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Hero's title is conferred only once in a lifetime and on Turkmenian nationals alone for outstanding services to the country and the public. A Golden Crescent awarded simultaneously serves as a mark of distinction. The President's Star is awarded for less outstanding services in the wartime, and for the promotion of international friendship, cooperation and peace and other achievements. The Gallantry Medal is awarded for bravery and fortitude while in discharge of civil or official duty and the Bravery Medal - for outstanding work effort or special services to the country's economy.

The parliament also approved a new citizenship law granting the status to all citizens of the former Soviet Union with permanent residence in the republic by the time the new law was adopted unless they renounce it in writing, as well as to those who left for permanent residence in other CIS republics provided that within a year, they confirm in writing their wish to retain Turkmenian citizenship.

Citizenship can also be granted to non-residents if qualifications such as the knowledge of the local language and permanent residence within the last seven years are met.

The new law also provides for dual citizenship. However, president Niyazov said this was subject to special agreements between Turkmenistan and other republics.

Niyazov Approves Natural Gas Shipments to Ukraine

*OW2809014592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641
GMT 27 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan is renewing natural gas shipments to Ukraine. This decision was reached in talks between Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and Ukrainian First Vice Prime Minister Konstantin Masik in Ashgabat Saturday [27 September], Turkmen Vice Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov told journalists. Suyunov said the two nations also agreed to resume shipments of Ukrainian foodstuffs and manufactured goods, which were interrupted in February, and to cooperate in transportation.

During the fourth quarter of 1992 Turkmenistan will send Ukraine 8 bn [billion] cubic meters of natural gas. The initial price was set at 3 thousand rubles per thousand cubic meters and will be adjusted in the future. Ukraine will receive 28.4 bn cubic meters of natural gas from this Central Asian republic in 1993.

Masik said concerning the forthcoming CIS summit in Bishkek, that "Turkmenistan and Ukraine share

common ground on a number of political issues, as was established by our presidents in a personal conversation."

Uzbekistan

Summary of President's Talks With Kyrgyz Leader

OW3009191492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; for the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The presidents of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on friendship, collaboration, and mutual assistance between the two states in Tashkent Tuesday [29 September].

With their signatures the leaders cemented their intergovernment agreement on trade and economic collaboration in 1993.

Appearing at an evening press conference on the results of the negotiations, Islam Karimov and Askar Akayev viewed the closed agreement as an important milestone in the histories of both states. They noted their complete unity of views on key political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian problems. They said the increased closeness between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan not only opens new prospects for development in their two countries, but also is an important factor in the stabilization of the entire Central Asian region and the C.I.S. as a whole.

The presidents of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan answered negatively a question about the idea of forming a federation or confederation of Central Asian states. Akayev and Karimov feel "there is no need for state superstructure establishments today" in the region or in the C.I.S. as a whole. However, the heads of states did not rule out the possibility of establishing a mechanism to put joint decisions into action and to coordinate economic, cultural, and ecological spheres of activity, but under the condition of full sovereignty.

In answer to a question from an Interfax correspondent on the possibility of joint peacekeeping activities in connection with the developments in Tajikistan, both presidents unanimously confirmed their intentions to continue them. Akayev and Karimov announced the combined lending of humanitarian aid to their brother nation; Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have already sent caravans with provisions and necessary items to Tajikistan.

Concerning the regulation of the situation in the neighboring republic, Karimov and Akayev believe the major steps should be taken by the Tajik people themselves. On this issue they agreed that it would be productive for

Tajikistan to summon a curator with participation from all regions, on whose basis a temporary organ would be formed - a council - and, under its aegis, presidential elections.

In relation to measures to promote stabilization in Tajikistan, both presidents cited the need to introduce order on the Afghanistan border. Karimov said Tajikistan's main troubles come from the penetration of subversive forces from neighboring countries. Meanwhile, this line is also a C.I.S. border - between the formerly united republics ran an "invisible" border. In addition, there are sufficient grounds for concern regarding the penetration of extremist elements into other Commonwealth states.

This is why soldiers from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan are joining Tajik soldiers to guard their borders today, added Akayev.

At the press conference the Uzbek president clarified media reports stating that the Afghan leader Rabbani offered to exchange Soviet prisoners of war for mujahidins being held in Uzbekistan. Karimov said in fact only four narcotics dealers exist, and that they are being detained in accordance with international standards.

Having settled upon the matter of the further development of their relations with Russia, both presidents once again stressed that both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were prepared to develop the closest relations with Russia. "It stands to reason," remarked Karimov, "that in measures for the development of our economy and for our entry into the world economic community, our foreign ties will be diversified. However, we intend to work closely with Russia. I add that Russia is the main guarantor of our agreement on collective security." The Uzbek and Kirgiz leaders stood for improving monetary conversion in the ruble zone and noted that there is demand for the establishment of an interstate bank, which would be in charge of the printing press.

President of Finland Arrives for 2-Day Visit

OW0110014192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Finnish President Mauno Koivisto arrived in Uzbekistan on Wednesday [30 September] at the start of a two-day visit to the republic after talks in Kazakhstan had ended. Interfax was informed by the Uzbek Foreign Ministry that official talks between the two heads of state would begin on Thursday. An intergovernmental trade, economic and technical collaboration agreement is expected to be signed, as is an agreement on cooperation with and the implementation and mutual protection of capital investment.

President Koivisto will leave for Helsinki on October 2nd after a tour of the ancient monuments of Samarkand and Bukhara.

Armenia**Russia's Gaydar Arrives for Economic Talks***LD3009163392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249
GMT 30 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Yerevan September 30 TASS—A delegation of the Russian Federation, led by Acting Chairman of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar, arrived in Yerevan from Baku on Wednesday [30 September].

Russian-Armenian talks are expected to be held in the next six hours, Gaydar is expected to meet the Armenian president and prime-minister.

A number of Russian-Armenian economic documents are expected to be signed, including an intergovernmental agreement on free trade, an agreement on mutual establishment of trade missions, an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in 1993.

An agreement on the settlement of issues of legal succession pertaining to former Soviet state debts and assets has been prepared to be signed.

Today, Armenia accounts for 0.86 per cent of the total Soviet debt and assets. The agreement provides for the transfer to Russia of the Armenian share of the former Soviet debts and assets.

On Wednesday, an agreement on a single monetary system and coordinated monetary, credit and currency policy of the Russian Federation and Armenia will be discussed and prepared for signing.

Gaydar will discuss with Armenian leaders a complex of problems connected with the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh and supplies of oil and food from Russia to Armenia, TASS learned from well-informed sources.

Late on Wednesday, Gaydar is expected to leave Yerevan for Moscow.

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"A package of signed documents will have a considerable impact on the development of bilateral relations," Gaydar declared at a news conference held after the ceremony of signing bilateral Russian-Azeri documents.

Prime-ministers of the two countries put their signatures to a draft agreement on monetary, credit and currency policy of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, which, according to official sources, will be signed during the visit of Azerbaijan's President Abulfaz Elchibey to Moscow, scheduled on October 12.

Signs Six Agreements*OW0110023792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820
GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government heads of Russia and Armenia, Yegor Gaydar and Khosrov Arutyunyan agreements in Yerevan Wednesday [30 September]. They included a Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement for 1993, a Free Trade Agreement, an agreement on opening trade representations in the capitols of the two countries by the end of the year, a unified monetary system and coinciding credit, finance and hard currency policy. An agreement was also signed on the formation of intergovernmental economic structures intended to maintain economic ties. Mr. Gaydar and Mr. Arutyunyan also signed an agreement on the status of Russian border guards on Armenian territory and a mechanism for their functioning. According to the document, the Russian border patrols will remain in Armenian territory until Armenia completes the process of forming its own border guard units.

The sides did not sign an agreement drafted by experts by which Armenia would transfer responsibility for its share of the former Soviet Union's external debt as well as former Soviet assets to Russia. Armenia pointed out that the government would need parliament's approval prior to resolving the question.

During his visit to Yerevan, Mr. Gaydar met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Details of the meeting are not known.

Earlier that day, Mr. Gaydar visited Baku, where he also signed a series of economic agreements.

Yegor Gaydar told journalists during an interview in Yerevan that he became certain during his visits to Baku and Yerevan that the leaderships of both republics recognize the need to separate long-term political problems of ending the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh from the important and possible practical objectives of maintaining a cease-fire.

In an exclusive interview with an Interfax correspondent, Armenian Premier Khosrov Arutyunyan reaffirmed intentions of the republic's leadership to strengthen the Sochi Agreements For a cease-fire in the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone on the basis of corresponding political initiative on a higher level. The agreements were reached earlier by the Defense Ministries of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Asked About Air Defense System*LD3009185492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658
GMT 30 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Yerevan September 30 TASS—Although issues of economic cooperation were in the focus of a visit of Russian Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar to Yerevan, military problems were also discussed during his talks on Wednesday [30 September] with Armenian counterpart Khosrov Arutyunyan.

Armenia, in particular, asked Russia to create an air-defence system on the Armenian territory.

The talks ended by signing an agreement on free trade, on trade and economic cooperation in 1993 and on creating interstate economic structures between Russia and Armenia.

The two prime ministers also prepared an agreement on a single monetary system and on agreed monetary policy between the two countries which is to be signed by the Russian and Armenian presidents.

The issues of resuming railway traffic between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as Russian deliveries of fuel to Armenia were also discussed.

Gaydar highly assessed the signed documents. He told a press conference that they create a legal basis for developing economic relations. Arutyunyan, in his turn, said "the agreements allow to better implement the economic transformations which are taking place in Armenia".

Russian Cease-Fire Observers Arrive in Yerevan

NC3009193392 Yerevan SNARK in English 1452 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, September 30 (SNARK)—Yesterday evening 17 observers from Russia arrived in Yerevan. So, there are 20 representatives of Russia. They will follow the realization of the Sochi agreement on ceasing the military actions in the region. The Armenian Ministry of Defence has said the Russian observers will be distributed at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in Noyemberyanskiy, Idzhevanskiy, Tavushkiy and Krasnoselskiy Rayons. The arrival of General-Colonel Kondratyev, the Russian [deputy] minister of defence, is expected today. Kondratyev will deal with the problems connected with the Russian observers distribution in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Radio Details Latest Fighting in Karabakh

NC3009164792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Five days have elapsed since 25 September, when the cease-fire went into effect. However, not only have the Azerbaijanis not adhered to it, but they have also been launching large-scale attacks on all fronts. This is evinced by the reports reaching our editorial office today.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] self-defense forces were obliged to launch operations in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the morning of 30 September to

destroy the gun emplacements sited at the Armenian village of Chldran, which the Azerbaijanis occupied after the cease-fire went into effect.

The villages of Kichan and Vank in Mardakertskiy Rayon, and Seidishen and Khidzrstan in Askeranskiy Rayon were shelled throughout 29 September from Chldran, which overlooks the region.

Backed by armored cars and tanks, the Azerbaijani side launched a second attack on Kichan on 29 September.

The enemy's intentions are obvious: To isolate Vank and a number of other villages in the west of Mardakertskiy and take under its control the road leading to Askeran. However, the enemy's second offensive also ended in failure. Following the fierce battle waged during the night, the NKR self-defense detachments pushed back the enemy to its initial positions. The Armenian side sustained seven dead and nine wounded. Nearly 25 usurpationist soldiers were killed. One T-72 tank and two armored personnel carriers were destroyed.

The artillery and rocket shelling of Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon has been continuing since this morning from the direction of the military bases in Fizulinskiy Rayon. The shelling caused destruction and injuries.

Yesterday, an Azerbaijani Su-25 aircraft dropped half a ton of bombs near the Tumi village in Gadrutskiy Rayon. It caused destruction. There are no reports on casualty figures.

The villages of Berdashen and Chartar in Martuninskiy Rayon were shelled with Grad launchers and howitzers yesterday from the military bases in Agdamskiy and [place name indistinct]. One resident died in Berdashen and others were injured. The shelling also caused material damage.

We just received other reports on the operations being launched by the enemy. The villages of Khochaz and (Idik) to the north of Lachin corridor were subjected to fierce artillery and rocket shelling from the direction of Azerbaijan's Kubatliinskiy Rayon all throughout 29 September, and in the early morning of 30 September. The enemy tried to advance towards the defensive positions near these villages on the night of 29 September, but was repulsed by the self-defense detachments. There are casualties on both sides. Details are being ascertained. The Azerbaijanis resumed the shelling of these places as of this morning. However, the road linking Karabakh to Armenia is functioning normally.

Greece Decides To Open Embassy

NC3009202792 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] In a news conference on 29 September, Ashot Hovakimyan, head of the Balkan Countries Department at the Armenian Foreign Ministry, announced that with the agreement of all the political parties in the country

the Greek parliament has overwhelmingly approved the opening of an embassy in Armenia.

Hovakimyan lead an Armenian delegation to the third international seminar on security and cooperation in the Balkans held on the Greek island of [placename indistinct] between 2 and 14 September.

Azerbaijan

Russia's Gaydar Meets President During Visit

LD3009215192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1619 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Viktor Shulman for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 30 Sep—Questions about a settlement in Azerbaijani-Armenian relations and Russia's mediatory mission took up the greater part of a conversation between Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey and Acting Russian Government Chairman Yegor Gaydar. It took place behind closed doors this afternoon at the residence of the head of the republic.

As the Azerbaijani president's press service has reported, the two men were both of the opinion that current Armenian-Azerbaijani mutual relations and the Karabakh conflict are hindering the processes of democratization and a stabilization of the socio-economic situation not only in Azerbaijan and Armenia, but in the Caucasus as well.

Abulfaz Elchibey stated that he remains in favor of a peaceful settlement to the conflict within the framework of international norms. To all appearances, Ter-Petrosyan too, he noted, would like to end this war, which causes palpable losses to both sides. According to the Azerbaijani president, however, "there are political forces that are doing everything possible in order to provoke new armed clashes; they are acting on both sides using the Karabakh conflict for their own purposes and capitalizing on the bloodshed."

According to the press-service, Yegor Gaydar noted, among other things, that "Russia welcomes Azerbaijan's peaceful initiatives and will use its influence to see that Armenia takes a more realistic position in the Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiation process."

Also, Yegor Gaydar conveyed to the Azerbaijani president the Russian leadership's request for clemency for Lieutenant Lukin, a Russian officer sentenced to death. "I am against the death penalty in principle, and the issue of Lt. Lukin's fate is now being examined," the Azerbaijani president remarked.

Discusses Financial Issues With Leaders

OW3009190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1833 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—item transmitted by KYODO]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Russian acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar on Wednesday [30 September] during his one-day trip to Azerbaijan said that "the most burning problems" in bilateral economic relations [with Azerbaijan] were those of mutual payments and financial credit. In relation to this, he called for the experts of the two countries to agree as soon as possible on protocols for trade and economic relations under which difficulties with payment could be regulated. Gaydar promised that the government of the Russian Federation would "do whatever it could to help" Azeri banks open accounts in those regions of Russia where Baku has "concentrated economic interests." Gaydar emphasized Russia's interest in the quick opening of the railway line linking Armenia and Azerbaijan. He remarked these very tracks also linked Russia with Iran. According to the acting head of the Russian cabinet, the solution to the problem should include the input not only of the ministries of transport of the two states, but also of their militaries, since the cease-fire agreement is not being observed in many areas through which the railway runs. Gaydar believes that the removal of railway blockades would be an important contribution to the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

For his part, Rakhim Guseynov, the head of the cabinet of Azerbaijan, reiterated that after the negotiations with Gaydar, he saw "no obstacle to closer economic relations (with Russia)." Guseynov was in agreement with Gaydar's belief that the main difficulty in bilateral economic relations was the question of mutual payments. Guseynov said that in the third quarter of the current year, mutual deliveries had stabilized, and emphasized that "by now, Russia owes us more than before." The head of the Azeri government also said that no border was needed between the two states. "With such stable relations between Azerbaijan and Russia," he believes, "we have no need of border controls."

Yegor Gaydar and Azerbaijanian President Abulfaz Elchibey discussed, in particular, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh during their meeting. The two sides agreed the most important objective for this time is the fulfillment of cease-fire agreements and the Sochi Agreements on this problem reached between the Defense Ministries of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Gaydar told an Interfax correspondent that he and Elchibey discussed the possibility that the Azerbaijanian President come to Moscow in the near future.

Ends Visit With Trade, Currency Pacts

*NC3009205192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar's one-day visit to Azerbaijan has ended with the signing of a package of agreements between the two governments. Prime Minister Rakhim Guseynov and Yegor Gaydar signed several agreements on trade and economic cooperation in 1993, free trade links, and the establishment of mutual trade missions. The two prime ministers also signed a draft agreement on the policy Russia and Azerbaijan will maintain on [word indistinct] and foreign currency issues. The draft will be signed by Boris Yeltsin and Abulfaz Elchibey when the latter visits Moscow on 12 October. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a press conference that was held immediately after the documents were signed, Yegor Gaydar said: The documents that have been signed will have a significant bearing on the improvement of the bilateral relations between the two countries. The basis of the new market relations between Russia and Azerbaijan, which will be based on equality, was established today.

Gaydar also said that the absence of Azerbaijan from the CIS framework will not affect the relations between Russia and Azerbaijan. However, he stressed that Russia would have applauded Azerbaijan's membership with the CIS. [passage omitted]

President Sends Message to Yeltsin

*NC3009204192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[Text of President Abulfaz Elchibey's message to President Boris Yeltsin on Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar's visit to Azerbaijan; date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, we have regarded Yegor Gaydar's visit to Azerbaijan as an effort made to further strengthen our good-neighborly relations. I hope that the visit will mark the beginning of a new era in the relationship between Azerbaijan and Russia. We believe that the victory recently achieved by the democratic forces in Azerbaijan will contribute toward the effort to further draw our republic's democratic [word indistinct] closer.

Mr. President, I take this opportunity to convey my respects to you and my best wishes to your family.

[Signed] Yours sincerely, Abulfaz Elchibey

Elchibey Reiterates Desire for Political Solution

LD0110000492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] On 30 September the republican media circulated a statement made by Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey. In his statement, the president of Azerbaijan

notes that the republican leadership reiterates its adherence to the principles of finding a political solution to international conflicts in accordance with the UN Charter, the provisions of the CSCE Final Act, and the Helsinki Declaration. President Elchibey mentions in the statement that Azerbaijan shows understanding for any peacemaking efforts aimed at settling the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. We regard the Sochi agreements on a cease-fire in the military conflict only as a stage within the complex process of overcoming the crisis, and one that is itself a phase in settling the conflict by political means within the CSCE framework, President Elchibey notes. Also, he believes that it would be expedient in the near future to hold a representative conference of the heads of state of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus, attended by CSCE representatives, with the purpose of discussing all the aspects of the problem and devising efficient measures for implementing cease-fire mechanisms.

Decree Extends Border Emergency 1 Month

*LD3009183692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92*

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] By decree of the president of Azerbaijan, the state of emergency in the republic's border regions has been extended by one month. This is connected with the increased number of cases of people crossing the border from Iran to Azerbaijan unchecked.

Defense Minister Says Sochi Agreement Holding

OW3009153792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijani Defence Minister Rakhim Gaziyeu speaking in parliament on Tuesday [29 September] accused Armenia of derailing the Sochi peace agreement between the two countries. But he also said the agreement appeared to be sticking.

The minister said that a protocol on the monitoring mechanism had now been signed and that Russian observers who arrived in the region had found nothing wrong after an inspection tour of Azerbaijan's main bases. Peace monitors from other countries, including CSCE, who are expected to come soon will be deployed in the combat area.

In the meantime, Azeri government aide Arif Gajiev in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] spoke of being unhappy about the defence minister's incompetence. He said the Sochi agreement had no future blaming it on the minister's political immaturity.

The leader of the country's large opposition party, the National Independence Party, Etibar Mamedov,

described Russia's brokerage in the regional conflict as hopeless. On the statements by Russian defence minister Pavel Grachev about sending troops to Karabakh, Mamedov called the move as meddling in his country's internal affairs.

The speaker of the Milli-Mejlis, Isa Kamberov, at the end of house debate, outlined the government's stand on the Sochi agreement saying it was part of the CSCE process and that Baku preferred CSCE peace effort to mediation by separate countries.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Over Illness; Briefs State Council

OW0110021392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1820 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has announced that according to an earlier reached agreement, his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be held October 13 or "a little later".

Addressing a State Council session Wednesday in Tbilisi, Shevardnadze did not, however, clarify where the meeting would be held. The Georgian leader added, however, that Yeltsin intends to pay an official visit to Georgia later, when a general agreement between the two countries will be signed.

Mr. Shevardnadze called Zviad Gamsakhurdia and circles close to him, who are currently located in the Chechen capitol of Grozny, a "terrorist organization". "The full Force of the law" should be used against them, said the State Council Chairman. Shevardnadze added that he had already given corresponding assignments to Georgian General Prosecutor Vakhtang Razmadze.

Aide on Russian Summit, Polls, Abkhazia

OW0110013992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1354 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has recovered from his recent spell of high temperature and returned to his office today, assistant to the chairman of Georgia's State Council Teimuraz Stepanov told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. Today E. Shevardnadze will brief the State Council on his trip to New York where he attended the U.N. General Assembly session, and on his meeting with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.

With reference to the Russian-Georgian summit to be held in Moscow on October 13 T. Stepanov pointed out that "in the present circumstances any meeting on this level determines much". The meeting will be preceded

by parliamentary elections in Georgia. Scheduled for October 11, they are expected to take place in extraordinary conditions. "Much will depend on their outcome," said the assistant to the chairman of Georgia's State Council.

He cited the results of a public opinion poll which clearly show that the overwhelming majority of voters who will go to the polling stations intend to cast their ballots for Edward Shevardnadze. For instance, in Georgia's capital Tbilisi 73.4% of voters decided to take part in the elections, and 93% of them intend to vote for E. Shevardnadze. In the industrial center of Kutaisi 79% of voters will go to the polls, and 89.7% of them proclaimed their support for the candidacy of E. Shevardnadze. According to T. Stepanov, the data relating to Martvili District are particularly indicative. 76.8% of the voters intend to go to the polls, and 95.7% of them will vote for E. Shevardnadze. "Martvili is situated in Mingrelia, that is Western Georgia, where quite recently the supporters of the ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia held very strong positions," T. Stepanov pointed out.

The public opinion poll was conducted on September 21. According to T. Stepanov, if it were conducted today, the number of voters supporting E. Shevardnadze would have been even greater. He attributes this to the response given in Georgia to E. Shevardnadze's speech at the 47th General Assembly session in New York and to his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. "The chairman of Georgia's State Council brought from Moscow the welcome news that the Russian leadership continues to adhere to the agreements reached on September 3. This means that relations between Georgia and Russia have been saved, and that they will develop as the two leaders planned." The Georgian public gives support to these steps of E. Shevardnadze, T. Stepanov stressed. He cited numerous telephone calls from all over Georgia received in his office.

With reference to the developments in Georgia T. Stepanov said that "a big political game" is in progress now. There is a whole range of factors that have an impact on the situation in the republic. E. Shevardnadze's assistant dwelled in detail on the activity of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples which, he said, is intent on destabilizing the situation around Sukhumi and in Abkhazia as a whole. According to T. Stepanov, one of the goals pursued by the Confederation is to form a republic of mountain people, within which "Great Cherkessia", necessarily with an outlet to the sea, is to be established. "That is why they chose Sukhumi".

T. Stepanov doesn't rule out the possibility that in some parts of Abkhazia, where the endeavours to stabilize the situation and ensure public security during the voting prove to be unsuccessful, the elections might be conducted not on October 11, but at some other time. However there is nothing extraordinary in this. "There have been such examples in world practice".

Abkhazia Settlement Commission Resumes Work

LD3009214292 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1956 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The tripartite talks on the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia will be continued on Thursday, October 1. High-ranking diplomats representing the Russian Federation in the Commission on Control and Inspection in Abkhazia (western Georgia) flew today to Sukhumi. Besides the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, the delegation also includes representatives of the Russian Ministries of Defense and Security, Foreign Ministry and the Parliament. The commission which will work in Sukhumi and Gudauta, will have to start all from the very beginning. The meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and chairman of the State Council of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, held in Moscow on Monday September 28, so far has not influenced in any way the situation in the zone of the conflict where the confronting sides continue to ignore the earlier decisions on ceasefire and disengagement of troops.

According to commandant of the town of Gagra, Badriy Pirtskheliani, within the last two days the Abkhazian and North Caucasian Armed Units were making repeated attacks on the Georgian troops in the town area. The Georgian troops exchanged fire.

According to reports from Tbilisi, eight guardsmen of the Governmental Armed Forces were wounded in local armed clashes near the village of Kolkhida in the Gagra area. The Abkhazian troops lost five men killed. In clashes near the village of Patara Abkhazskaya of the Ochampir District one Georgian guardsman was killed and six wounded.

At the same time, according to a spokesman for the press center of the Russian Defense Ministry, on Tuesday troops of the State Council of Georgia attacked villages Atara Armyanskaya, Aradu and Mokva of the Ochampir District. Taking part in the armed attack were two infantry companies and twelve pieces of armoured force. As a result of heavy artillery fire there were fatalities and destructions in the villages. At 15:40 Georgian helicopters bombarded villages in this district. The same source informed that the Abkhazian armed troops for the first time used armoured carriers and tanks in the area of the town of Gagra.

In the course of the meeting in Moscow on September 28, Georgia pledged to start a withdrawal of heavy military machines from the zone of the conflict, admitted the necessity to strengthen Russian troops in Abkhazia to ensure guarding of the railroad. The sides decided to hold a new meeting at a high level among representatives of Georgia, Russia and Abkhazia with participation of republics of the North Caucasus on October 13. By that time Georgia will have legally elected power bodies.

The majority of the Sukhumi population do not believe in a quick settlement and stabilization of the situation in Abkhazia. According to a recent opinion poll conducted by journalists from the DEMOKRATICHESKAYA ABKHAZIA newspaper, out of 924 inhabitants of Sukhumi 81 per cent believe that one can hardly expect an end to the armed conflict in Abkhazia in the near future.

Abkhazia Protests Escalating Punitive Measures

OW3009175692 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1715 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Abkhazian Parliament's press service charged the Georgian government with "resolving the political conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia through the use of force". A statement circulated in Gudauta Wednesday [September 30] claims that "the punitive operations" of the Georgian State Council within the territory of Abkhazia's Ochamchir region "are escalating". The situation has become more complicated with the appearance of two SU-25 fighter-bombers in the Sukhumi airport, which is controlled by Georgian military units. Gudauta feels the "measure against the peaceful population makes the situation catastrophic for both sides".

According to the Abkhazian Defense Committee in Gudauta, gunfire did not cease along the Bzyb-Gagra front in the early morning of September 30. Georgian units more than once attacked Georgian guard positions with the aim of seizing the high ground around the resort city.

Abkhaz Leader Ardzinba Interviewed on Situation

PM3009112192 Moscow *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA*
in Russian 26 Sep 92 p 1

[Interview with Vladislav Ardzinba, head of the Abkhaz parliament, by N. Garifullina; place and date not given: "A Weary Land. The Situation in Abkhazia Is Discussed Behind Closed Doors in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] For the second day running around 400 representatives of the Abkhaz, Abaza, Cherkess (Adyge), Ossetian, Lezgin, Karachai-Balkar, Russian, and other peoples of the Northern Caucasus are picketing the "White House," where the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is examining in closed session the issue of the situation in the Northern Caucasus in connection with the events in Abkhazia, put on the agenda at the proposal of Deputies S. Baburin and M. Tumov. The pickets are demanding that the bloodshed be stopped and the bloody aggression against Abkhazia condemned, and for the supply of arms to the bandit formations of the Georgian State Council to be ended.

"So the accords achieved at the Moscow meeting are not being fulfilled?" I asked Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz parliament.

"To our great regret, the Georgian side is fulfilling virtually none of the provisions of the document, beginning with the most important of all—a cease-fire," Vladislav Grigoryevich said. "Air raids on peaceful cities and villages are continuing. Look what objectives are being bombed! There is Tkvarcheli, a city of miners, almost 40 percent of whose inhabitants are Russian coal workers; there are the villages of Ochamchirskiy Rayon, where there is a dense Abkhaz population. On 23 September three helicopters and a Su-25 bomber carried out a missile-bomb attack on a whole series of regions. The Abkhaz villages of Arasadykh, Gvada, Gup, and the city of Tkvarcheli were bombed. People were killed, including a 13-year-old child, and two schools were destroyed. Pillaging and mass persecution is continuing on the occupied territory, and the population's civil rights are being trampled under foot.

"The document's 10th clause on the restoration of the legal organs of power has not been fulfilled. Indeed, how can there be any question of this while a regime of occupation remains in Sukhumi, soldiers of the Georgian State Council are acting savagely, and the Georgian side is counting on a strong-arm solution to the problem? At the trilateral meeting in Sochi 15 September [Georgian Defense Minister] Kitovani stated directly: "You"—meaning the Russians—"get out, and we will sort things out for ourselves with "them"—that is, the Abkhaz." But before this he delivered an ultimatum: If volunteers of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples are not withdrawn within 15 days, Georgia will begin combat operations. Since there is no real force capable of stopping an aggressor, the Georgian side prefers to act from a position of strength. Everything happening in Abkhazia today looks to us, the citizens of this small republic, like a nightmare. It is barbarity, which became possible because a military-fascist regime—there is no other name for it—stands at the head of state. When we manage to get to the territories occupied by the Georgian formations and bring what has happened there to the knowledge of the public, the world will shudder and recoil in horror at what they have perpetrated in Abkhazia. And this will forever cover in shame the clique which rules Georgia today.

[Garufullina] Your conception of the road to peace?

[Ardzinba] The first and most important condition is to withdraw troops, end the occupation, and then, naturally, the Confederation's volunteers will also be withdrawn. We are prepared to meet with the Georgian leadership and resolve our problems over th in particular in concluding the Federation Treaty.

[Garufullina] What do you expect from the Russian Supreme Soviet?

[Ardzinba] An objective assessment of what happened in Abkhazia and a decision which would include the possibility of the use of force. [Ardzinba ends]

Such is the position of the head of the Abkhaz parliament. Yesterday the discussion of the question was continued at the evening session. As on the day before—behind close doors.

Two documents, the drafts of which were issued beforehand, were also discussed: a statement by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in connection with the events in Abkhazia, and a resolution on the situation in the Northern Caucasus. Evidently they will be adopted after this issue of the newspaper has been signed to press. One would so much like to hope that Russian deputies will draw the line which will bring long-awaited peace to the weary land of Abkhazia....

'Unknown Persons' Kill Commander in S. Ossetia

OW3009174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1714 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gela Khedagashvili, commander of a Georgian battalion of peacekeeping forces in the Tskhinvali region, was killed by unknown persons in his own home on September 30th. The commander's mother and wife were injured. This report was made by the press centre of the Georgian Mission in Moscow.

The press centre also reported that the Ossetians are holding five Georgians hostage and are demanding a ransom of 500,000 rubles.

Estonia

Government Passes Cabinet Resignation Protocol

OW3009174392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1719 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government at its Wednesday [30 September] session passed a protocol decision in accordance with which the incumbent cabinet of minister will submit a draft resolution of its resignation to the newly-elected State Assembly (parliament).

First State Assembly Session 5 Oct

OW3009005192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1625
GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Central Elections Commission registered Monday [28 September] the deputies of the republic's State Assembly and announced that its first session will be opened at 11 a.m., October 5 in the parliament conference hall in Tallinn.

The republic's constitution provides for the first session to be presided by chairman of the republic's elections commission - Mr Eerik-Juhan Truuvali.

Journalists Accuses New Deputy of KGB Links

OW2909021892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2100
GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The editor of the weekly "Eesti Express" Hans H. Luik told a press conference Monday [28 September] that before the elections to the State Assembly, the weekly had received a letter in Russian to which two KGB documents were attached. The documents showed that deputy of the State Assembly Tiit Made who in the mid-70's worked at the Soviet embassy in Sweden, was a KGB agent and had the nickname "khumury" (gloomy).

The Estonian Interior Ministry's laboratory found that both documents had been faked. At the same time, experts acknowledged that the author of the anonymous letter was well aware of the KGB activities.

Industrial Production Slump Continues

OW3009011292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1839
GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The industrial output of Estonia in the first eight months of this year was 35% less than in the corresponding period last year, according to the department of statistics in Tallinn.

In the cellulose and paper industry, industrial production fell by 60.3%; the machine-building and metal-working industries showed a 52.6% decline; the glass-making industry's productivity was down 50.1%; and the chemical industry showed a 43% drop.

At the same time, according to the department's data, there was an increase in output of equipment for the oil industry, the jewelry, fur, and fine clothing divisions, as well as the starch products, milk powder, and macaroni divisions. The volume of peat extracted also grew.

State Bank Continues To Hold Russian Rubles

OW3009011492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1624
GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The rubles that went out of circulation during the monetary reform in Estonia on June 20 are still stored in the Bank of Estonia, said the Eesti Pank's president Enn Teimann in an interview for Baltfax. In his words, their remittance to Russia has been delayed by the fact that the two countries have not concluded any agreement in that regard. Such an agreement is expected to be signed in the course of the Russian-Estonian talks in regards to the sides participation in the reimbursement of the former USSR internal and external debt.

"Russia is interested in getting back its rubles, therefore we regard this money, to a certain extent, as an ace in our hands," Mr Teimann maintains.

Mr Teimann refused to specify the exact sums of Russian rubles stored in the Eesti Pank, while in the estimates of some of the experts, it may amount to two billion rubles.

Joint Group Discusses Withdrawal Agreement

OW3009004192 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1840 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The regular meeting of workers' groups on military issues opened in Tallinn Tuesday [29 September] within the framework of inter-state negotiations between Estonia and Russia. On the first day a draft of an agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia was discussed, although they did not discuss the time frame in which the troops would be withdrawn.

The Russian party also prepared drafts of agreements on the social security of Russian Defense Ministry pensioners and on the Paldiski center for preparing military submariners.

Representatives of Estonia's defense ministry stressed that when Russian military divisions leave their territory, all installations should be given over not to organs of the local self-government, but only to commissions of the republic's defense ministry.

The meeting of workers' groups will continue Wednesday.

Sweden Agrees to Visa Exchange Program

OW0110022492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1723 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the report provided by the press service of the Estonian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], Estonian and Swedish representatives signed in Stockholm Wednesday, Sept. 30, an agreement envisaging the countries exchange of persons.

In compliance with the provisions of this document, each country will be obliged to issue 300 entry permits a year for the persons aged from 18 to 30 years who will come to the respective country to undergo a course of linguistic or vocational training.

Latvia

Godmanis on Plan for Winter Heating Costs

LD0110051192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 30 Sep 92

[Text] Latvia has enough of both energy resources and food for the coming winter, but problems are caused by the settlement of the financial issues. That was the message announced at a news conference by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Ivars Godmanis.

It is expected that energy resources will suffice to provide heating for the last quarter of this year and the first quarter of the next. Though the question of how much the inhabitants will pay for an apartment has not been finally resolved, Ivars Godmanis disclosed approximate calculations for apartments. For example, a family of four people with two children and two working adults and living in an apartment of 50 square meters could have a total outlay of 5,500 rubles a month. This sum is made up of 3,850 rubles for heating—77 rubles per one square meter—756 rubles for a gas stove, about 300 rubles for electricity, 125 rubles for rent—2.50 rubles for one square meter—and 480 rubles for hot water.

It is clear that this sum cannot be paid at the moment by a resident, because 70 percent of income now goes on food supplies. Therefore, the head of the government is in favor of 30 percent of income going on apartments and communal services.

In the event that this part of an income exceeds the real costs, then only the sum of the real payments would have to be made. This system, in Ivars Godmanis' view, will create a certain sense of security among the inhabitants.

Russian Army Presence Could Provoke Incidents

OW0110123792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1104 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Though there is no threat of an armed strangling of Latvian independence, the presence of Russian troops in the country can indirectly provoke various conflicts. The statement was made on Wednesday [30 September] by the Latvian deputy defence minister Valdis Pavlovskis and deputy chairman of the parliamentary defence committee Juris Dobelis. Speaking at a news conference in Riga on the results of a two day conference for military advisors and attaches of foreign diplomatic missions in Latvia they stressed that such a danger is aggravated by growing imperial tendencies in Russia.

Deputy chairman of the parliamentary human rights committee Karlis Liepins told a news conference that complaints about the violation of human rights in the country are made mainly by organizations of retired officers and veterans. He stressed that the Russian-speaking population is not involved in these actions.

Ministry Regrets Detention of Russian Delegate

OW0110022392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1720 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] has expressed regret over the incident Sept. 24 at the premises of the "Maijori" spa in Jurmala when a car with Rear Admiral Shestakov, head of the Russian delegation at the Russian-Latvian state talks, was detained at the exit from the resort by a detail of Latvian home guardsmen, reads the note which the Latvian foreign ministry directed to the Russian MFA.

The note also states that the spa which still belongs to the Russian Baltic Fleet ought to be transferred to the local authorities who have been unable to resolve the issue of its transfer for several months. "In protecting the spa from squandering as well as for the purpose of exercising supervision over the operation of unregistered commercial structures at its territory", Jurmala's administration resolved to set up a checkpoint for the spa vehicle pool.

As regards the incident with the admiral's car, the Latvian MFA "does not notice any violations of the standing instructions by the guardsmen" who, "owing to the circumstances, were not informed of a possibility that the car of a member of the Russian state delegation, enjoying conformable immunity, could be at the premises of the spa at that time".

Foreign Pensions Available Via Mail

OW0110022692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1722
GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "Latvijas pasts" ("Latvian Post") informs Baltfax that now the Latvian residents will be able to receive by mail the so-called "social payments", i.e., pensions, alimonies, etc. from Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. The other CIS republics having not concluded such agreements with Latvia.

Ordinary postal money transfers to Latvia are still suspended from the ruble zone countries.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Russian 'Campaign' Against Baltics

LD0110094492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent Vytas Usas]

[Text] Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, who has just returned from the 47th UN General Assembly in New York, has held a news conference.

He noted that the Russian Foreign Ministry has initiated an extensive campaign in the UN General Assembly and other international fora that is very similar to a new cold war against the Baltic states. We experienced this in the times of the Soviet Union, especially since 1990, although we remember earlier accusations against the mass movements striving for independence in the Baltic states.

Instead of Gorbachev, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev is now active. The conservative forces of that country are pushing him in the same direction as they previously pushed Gorbachev.

Vytautas Landsbergis stressed that a certain anti-Baltic attitude is being incited in Russia itself. There are also attempts to stir up an anti-Baltic campaign in the West as well. One of the goals of this campaign is to stop the integration of the Baltic states into the West and to continue to keep them dependent on Russia.

There are also attempts to do this both in the European Council and in discussions on programs of support for reforms and aid to the Baltic states. There are doubts being sown: There is allegedly something wrong in the Baltic states in the sphere of human rights, Russians are being harmed, and so on.

There may be other aims as well, Vytautas Landsbergis said at today's news conference—for example, the creation of a pretext to not withdraw the Army or even for military intervention. We see that negotiations with Latvia are being delayed and that Latvia is being accused of failing to prepare to negotiate on the conditions dictated by Russia. There are [word indistinct] to consolidate in Western opinion that,

allegedly, national minorities problems exist in the Baltic states. This is being linked with the Estonian citizenship law and the preparation of a similar law in Latvia. Meanwhile, it is more difficult to obtain citizenship in Sweden than in Estonia.

Some people in Russia may be striving to [word indistinct] exacerbation, but demands to change laws under pressure from a foreign state are very strange.

Russia probably also plans to legitimize and consolidate in Western opinion such derivatives [darinys] as its own Russian peacekeeping forces, Vytautas Landsbergis noted. Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev stated that they are currently replacing UN peacekeeping forces, although nobody asked them to do so. This represents a danger and a threat.

Latvians are being intimidated with the thought that the same thing could happen as in Yugoslavia and that Latvia is allegedly striving for a single-nation model. Finally, Zotov, the head of the Russian delegation for negotiations with Latvia, even accused Western states of not defending Russians in Latvia and Estonia. Such thoughts are echoing not only at the UN but also in other international fora. This Russian initiative is aimed at establishing a kind of protectorate over the Baltic states and at striving to defend its residents there.

There are proposals to apply sanctions against Estonia. They are talking about such things in order to prevent conflicts; they may be tempted to say that a conflict is ripening in some neighboring foreign state and that Russia must intervene to prevent it from flaring up.

These are dangerous things, Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis said at the news conference. International organizations should stop such tendencies. Estonian Foreign Minister Manitski's proposal that not only Estonia should invite a UN commission to acquaint itself with the situation of national minorities, but that Russia should do so as well, should be supported. Many national minorities there have become extinct or are on the brink of extinction.

Vytautas Landsbergis, in response to journalists' questions, then noted that at the end of the year the UN General Assembly will most likely examine the issue of the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the Baltic states. The Russian Army is already being withdrawn from Lithuania and this can be seen as the implementation of the recent agreement, Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis said at the news conference, which took place one and a half hours ago.

Expresses Support for Yeltsin

OW3009005292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1625 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The evil empire has not vanished," [no opening quotation mark as received] Lithuanian parliament head

Vytautas Landsbergis remarked in his speech Monday [28 September] at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly. In being flagrantly critical of the Russian policy toward the Baltic countries, Mr Landsbergis, however, expressed support to President Boris Yeltsin.

In his words, Russia is resorting to "economic pressure employing the measures of its undeclared blockade".

According to the report provided by the press service of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis will not visit Chicago during his stay in the US as was announced earlier. He is expected to return to Vilnius September 30.

Ministry Protests Actions of Russian Troops

OW3009132292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1137 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry sent to the Russian Foreign ministry a note in which it expressed its concern over the actions of the Russian armed forces on the republic's territory.

The document points out that such facts as the declaration of banning of flights of the Lithuanian aircraft over the sites in the northern part of Lithuania announced by the Russian center of military aviation flight control center on September 23 and conducting of training firing in the region of the ceramic factory near Kaunas "cause doubt that the Russian side intend to observe obligations foreseen in bilateral agreements." The note emphasizes that the conducted on September 21 training firings in the result of which several shells hit the quarry of the ceramic factory brought serious material damage to the republic and presented certain danger to the lives of the civil population. [sentence as recieved] The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry asks to make a thorough investigation of this accident.

Russian Soldiers Transfer Facility

OW2909023292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
2101 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Lithuanian Home Defense Ministry, the Russian military were trying to prevent the transfer of a hotel building belonging to the 7th Russian airborne division to the Lithuanian authorities Monday [28 September].

The transfer of the building was agreed with the division's command beforehand. The Kaunas Commandant's Office of the Ministry made an inventory of the building and sealed up empty rooms. However, armed soldiers broke into the building, expelled officers on duty and established a barricade on the second floor. The military threatened the Kaunas Commandant Vitas Vilkelis who arrived at the spot with automatic rifles.

An hour later the incident exhausted itself. After negotiations the military left the building.

Government To Ration Certain Foods

LD0110091492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1704 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius, 30 Sep—Many foodstuffs are to be sold through the use of ration cards in the Lithuanian Republic as of 1 October.

The Industry and Trade Ministry has issued an order so that in October, every resident of Lithuania will be allowed to purchase 1 kg of grains and 1 kg of sugar. Additionally, in the fourth quarter there will be a per capita allowance of 2 kg of flour, one packet of macaroni, and 1 kg of salt.

The prices at which the ration cards can be turned in to purchase food have not been announced, although it is hardly realistic to believe that the inordinately high prices will come down. In just over a year, food prices in Lithuania have increased more than a hundred-fold.

Gas Supply To Be Cut Off Unless Bills Paid

WS2909131892 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1335 GMT 28 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 88]

[Text] 28 September 1992—On October 2 the gas supply for Lithuania will be stopped, if it does not pay the debt of more than 6 billion roubles for the supplied gas. This kind of telegram reached Prime Minister on Thursday [24 September] morning from the St Petersburg gas concern "Lentransgaz". In accordance with the Russian President's order the concern also demands that the payment for the gas supply should be made in advance.

As it has already been informed, due to the indebtedness brought about by Russia's unilateral determination of prices, since August 20 the gas supply to Lithuania was reduced by 55 per cent. According to the interstate agreement, 4 thousand roubles are to be paid to the Russian suppliers for 1 thousand cubic meters of gas, but the gas concern demands 90 dollars in accordance with the dollar-rouble exchange rate set by the Russian Central Bank, thus bring the sum to 16-18 thousand roubles.

On September 25 the representatives of the Lithuanian government went to Moscow to meet with the board of the Russian Ministry of Energetics and to discuss the prices.

On the same day in Moscow the Lithuanian and Russian experts were still working on the agreements of the interdependent accounts. These and some other economic agreements should be signed until October 1. [sentence as received]

Talks Held With Russian Officials on Price of Oil

LD0110054992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Report by ELTA special correspondent Jonas Bogdan-
skis from Moscow]

[Text] Lithuanian Vice Prime Minister Bronislovas
Lubys has arrived in Moscow to conduct negotiations
with Russian representatives and met in the afternoon
with Viktor Chernomyrdin, vice prime minister of the
Russian Federation, who is in charge of fuel and power
engineering problems.

In the negotiations, Lithuania is also represented by
Romualdas Ramoska, deputy industry and trade minister.

The negotiations on the supply of oil and gas took place
in a frank and businesslike atmosphere, said Bronislovas
Lubys. It was agreed to revise the debts presented to
Lithuania by Russian oil and gas suppliers, which in the
three quarters of this year, according to earlier calcula-
tions, amounted to about 11 billion rubles.

The possibilities for the supply of gas in the last quarter
of this year and next year were examined. There is a
possibility of obtaining sufficient supplies to satisfy the
requirements of Lithuanian industry and of the whole
economy. A critical appraisal took place of a protocol
signed by the heads of the state enterprise "Lietuvos
Dujos" [Lithuanian Gas] on the price of gas. It is
expected that it could be lowered.

The issue of the supply of gas from Turkmenistan in transit
to Lithuania, using Russian gas pipelines, was discussed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the vice premier of the Russian
Federation, agreed that Russian oil should be refined at
the Mazeikiiai enterprise and that Lithuanian would be
paid for refining oil products. Apart from that, in the last
quarter of this year, if an agreement is reached with
Russian oil concerns, Lithuania could be supplied with
additional quantities of crude oil.

Abisala Signs Agreements With Poland

WS3009130292 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1434 GMT 29 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 89]

[Text] 29 September 1992—As we have already
informed, yesterday Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala
paid a one-day visit to Poland. After the plenary sitting
of the governmental delegations of Lithuania and
Poland, the Prime Ministers of both countries signed an
"Agreement on bilateral protection and stimulation of
investments". The heads of corresponding departments
signed an "Agreement on cooperation between the min-
istries of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and
the Republic of Poland in the field of the control of the
criminality" and an "Agreement on cooperation in
checking individuals, goods and means of transport

crossing the Lithuanian-Polish border by motor ways
and railroads and on the provisional order of crossing
the state border at the point of Kalvarijos-Budzisk".

After the signing ceremony Aleksandras Abisala said:
"Today's meeting of the Prime Ministers of Lithuania
and Poland has been the first in the history of the two
countries. As neighbours, Lithuania and Poland have
many common interests, however these interests have
been up to now handicapped by some misunderstand-
ings and the lack of such official relations. I am happy to
say that the relatively new governments of Lithuania and
Poland have rather quickly managed to come to an
agreement about this meeting and to prepare the docu-
ments. I perceive a great merit of the Prime Minister of
Poland Hanna Suchocka in this respect.

I am pleased to note that we spoke very frankly about the
delicate problems of the national minorities in both
countries seeking for ways and possibilities to alleviate
and eliminate these problems".

Prime Minister of Poland Hanna Suchocka stressed the
importance of the meeting and the great interest of the
negotiations which have paved the way to the ultimate
solution of a number of accumulated problems. "I would
like to mention three points only", she said. "First, we
have agreed to set up a common Lithuanian-Polish
commission for the preservation of the cultural heritage.
Next, an agricultural mission will be sent to Lithuania
and we are going to establish much closer economic
contacts. Finally, we have agreed to open up a second
border-crossing point between Lithuania and Poland.
The conversations were very forthright and I hope they
promise very good, especially good relations", Head of
the Polish Government concluded.

Prime Minister of Lithuania had also meetings with
President of Poland Lech Walesa, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Poland Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Marshal of
the Sejm Wiclaw Chrzanowski and Vice Marshal of the
Polish Senate Alicia Grzeskowiak.

Official on Interstate Treaty With Poland

WS3009130492 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1434 GMT 29 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 89]

[Text] 29 September 1992—On September 28, speaking
at a briefing in the Supreme Council [SC] of Lithuania,
Chairman of the SC foreign Affairs Committee Vid-
mantas Povilionis noted that the opportunity of signing
the interstate treaty between Lithuania and Poland had
not been ripe yet. He said he had been surprised by the
Lithuanian Premier's words in the interview he gave to
the Polish News Agency (PAP) from which he got the
impression that the Premier was bent on compromise
and would not insist that the 1920 annexation of the
Vilnius region by Poland should be denounced in the
interstate treaty under the consideration. Chairman of
the Lithuanian SC Foreign Affairs Committee said that

nobody had empowered the Prime Minister to sign the treaty under such conditions. "We don't insist that Poland should apologize. We only ask that Poland assess its 1920 act of aggression against Lithuania and thus help close this page of history". Yet, in the opinion of Vidmantas Povilionis, in spite of certain misunderstanding of the political character, the Lithuanian Prime Minister's visit to Poland is an important event and should serve the purpose of improving our neighbourly relations.

Entrepreneurs Demand Government To Repay Losses

OW0110021792 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1720 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As a result of a decision by the Lithuanian government and the Bank of Lithuania to reverse to Belarus, Ukraine and Azerbaijan the resources transferred by them to Lithuanian banks since Sept. 21, some of the republic's commercial companies have suffered serious losses amounting to 2-3 mn [million] rubles, the Lithuanian entrepreneurs claimed at their meeting Tuesday [29 September] with representatives of the republic's banks.

The entrepreneurs were extremely critical about the Lithuanian government and the Bank of Lithuania for their delayed announcement of the republic's leaving the so-called ruble zone and their failure to sign an agreement in regards to mutual accounting with the republics of the former Soviet Union. The entrepreneurs demanded that the government repay the losses it has inflicted on their companies.

Landsbergis Comments on Talks in Brussels

WS2809130092 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1315 GMT 25 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 87]

[Text] 25 September 1992—The meetings were very useful, Vytautas Landsbergis said on his return from Belgium where he met with the King of Belgium Baudouin I, Presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament, General Secretary of NATO and a number of high officials.

Vytautas Landsbergis noted that during the discussion of the economic relations the European Community had promised to prolong rendering preferences to Lithuania in order to make easier for Lithuanian goods to find their way to Western European markets. There is a possibility to get the 100 million ECU [European Currency Unit] economical aid due to our problems in obtaining oil and

especially the hardships suffered by our population caused by the abrupt stoppage of the supply of liquid gas.

Vytautas Landsbergis has pointed out that Europe's attention to the Baltic region is not slackening. The issue of the Russian armed forces' pullout is regarded as acute for the whole of Europe. The NATO is concerned with the peaceful development of the Baltic region and the stability of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis concluded.

Landsbergis Orders Removal of Parliament Barriers

OW2909113392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1044 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [28 September] the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis issued instructions to the Construction Minister Algimantas Nasvytis to restore order around the parliament building by November, to open passages leaving only part of the barricades which are a historical monument, a legacy of struggle.

The barricades appeared in January 1991 when 13 civilians died during the storming of the city TV tower by Soviet troops. Mr. Landsbergis has said on many occasions that the barricades will be dismantled after the last Russian soldier leaves Vilnius. The 107th Russian Division is to be withdrawn from the city in November.

Report on Russian Listening Post in Linksmakalnis

LD2609051292

[Editorial Report] Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Russian on 28 August carries on page 4 an article entitled "Russian Ears in Linksmakalnis." The article begins by giving a description of the antenna field for the Russian monitoring station near Garliava, between Kaunas and Prienai.

According to communication experts, the article states, the antennae for this closed military cantonment "have been used by the KGB for its purposes. Sometimes the military themselves used to say that Linksmakalnis is the USSR's western ear."

The article notes that the Linksmakalnis military cantonment, staffed by Russian Army Unit 71272 and located several km from Kaunas, occupies an area of 50 hectares. This military unit, deployed here in 1947, has been expanding, the article notes. It has everything needed for an isolated life, including a well-appointed kindergarten, a school, a stadium, a sports hall, a library, a building for cultural events, video and disco bars, a shop, 18 houses containing 276 apartments over an area of 14,208 square meters, barracks, technical buildings, and an antenna field.

At present, this unit belongs to the Communications and Information Agency of the federal government attached to the Russian president. It "no longer maintains contacts with the former KGB," the article states.

It is Linksmakalnis' job to listen to short-wave radio information and satellite channels. Thus, the report says, Linksmakalnis listens to all radio information—reports by planes, ships, military units, and embassies. With special equipment, it can also listen to international telephone conversations, the paper says, nor are Lithuania's local communication channels and information sent by the Republic's special services secret to them. The article notes that after some initial processing, all the information is sent to the Russian president in Moscow.

The article points out that "the most important thing is that the Russian secret services are spying on third countries from Lithuanian territory; this, of course, is not beneficial to our young democratic state." The article concludes by stating that the unit will eventually have to withdraw from Lithuania.

Mobilization of Defense Conscripts Begins

*WS3009130192 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1434 GMT 29 Sep 92*

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 89]

[Text] 29 September 1992—The Lithuanian Government has declared the mobilization to the real and alternative (labour) service of national defence. This is the third call up to the reformed Military Forces of the independent Lithuania. All the young men at the age 19 are to join the military service. Up to 5000 conscripts will be called up during October and November. The military service of the Lithuanian national defence lasts 12 months.

According to the officials of the mobilization committee, the main problem is that a considerable number of young men are unfit for the military service due to their health.